

WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ben Wopat - Principal ★ Amanda Beld - Associate

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Dear Panther Families,

We are a full month into the school year and it's been a great start! Our staff is committed to a continuous improvement mindset in order to help your child learn and grow. We thank you for your continued support to make this possible. This year, the staff is already hard at work teaching, assessing, and examining data within teams to ensure student learning. Our students are engaged in learning during the school day and busy with their activities, athletics or interests afterwards. Our parents are hard at work supporting their children while they learn and grow. Given the busy schedules of our entire West Salem Middle School Learning Community, we see our WSMS Newsletter as one of the important ways we maintain communication between school and home. It contains a variety of academic updates as to what your child is learning, and provides you with an overview of that learning and additional items about the middle school experience.

I want to take this opportunity to share with you how our teachers continue to learn about our profession and how they give back to the profession as they mentor future educators. We partner with both UW-La Crosse and Viterbo to create a Professional Development School (PDS). What is a Professional Development School? PDS are schools that have joined with a university to accomplish educational goals that are mutually beneficial. A PDS is a collaboratively planned and implemented partnership for the academic and clinical preparation of teacher candidates. WSMS has a quality team of highly-trained educators who continue to develop themselves as professionals while supporting future educators. Your children will see these future educators in their classrooms.

Finally, at WSMS, we have continued to emphasize our school-wide expectations for our students. How do we show our Panther Pride?

1. Practice Kindness 2. Act Respectfully 3. Work Hard.

At WSMS, we are honored to work with you in this endeavor.

Ben Wopat
Principal

Proud to Be a Panther!
www.twitter.com/coachwopat



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

School Starts at 7:50!!

**Picture re-take day
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12**

**NO SCHOOL
OCT 20 & 27**

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Calendar of Events-School

October 5 - Grade 7 to Wildlife Refuge
 October 5 - Grade 8 to School Forest (Snook)
 October 5 - Grade 6 Choir and Band Concert 7:00 p.m.
 October 6 - Grade 7 to Wildlife Refuge
 October 6 - Grade 8 to School Forest (Coe)
 October 11 - EARLY RELEASE
 October 12 - Picture Retake Day
 October 13 - Grade 6 to School Forest
 October 19 - Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 October 20 - NO SCHOOL
 October 23 - Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
 October 27 - NO SCHOOL

Calendar of Events-Athletics

Cross Country

October 3 @ Copeland Park - La Crosse 4:30 p.m.
 October 10 @ Myrick Park - La Crosse 4:30 p.m.
 October 17 @ Maple Grove Country Club - West Salem 4:00 p.m.
 October 19 @ Maple Grove Country Club - West Salem 4:00 p.m.

Football (7th Grade)

October 3 vs. Aquinas at West Salem MS 4:15 p.m.
 October 17 vs. Holmen at West Salem MS 4:15 p.m.
 October 23 @ Tomah HS against Tomah MS 4:30 p.m.

Football (8th Grade)

October 5 @ Logan HS against Logan MS 4:00 p.m.
 October 12 @ Holy Cross against Aquinas 4:15 p.m.
 October 19 vs. Sparta MS at West Salem HS 4:15 p.m.

Volleyball (7th Grade)

October 2 vs. Westby MS at West Salem ES 4:15 p.m.
 October 5 @ Holmen MS against Holmen MS 4:00 p.m.
 October 9 vs. Aquinas at West Salem ES 4:15 p.m.
 October 12 @ Ettrick Elementary School against G-E-T MS 4:15 p.m.
 October 16 vs. Logan MS at West Salem ES 3:45 p.m.
 October 17 TBD (in Onalaska, black team only, 2 games, 3 sets each)
 October 19 @ Longfellow MS against Longfellow MS

Volleyball (8th Grade)

October 2 vs. Westby MS at West Salem MS
 October 5 @ Holmen MS against Holmen MS
 October 9 vs Aquinas at West Salem MS
 October 12 @ G-E-T MS against G-E-T MS
 October 16 vs. Logan MS at West Salem MS
 October 19 @ Longfellow MS against Longfellow MS



Counselor's Corner Ms. Becker - Mr. Lang



We finished September strong with homecoming festivities, dress-up days and a lot of Panther Pride. It has been wonderful to watch students participate in various fall activities, from athletics to music and the arts!

Homerooms continue to use the Character Strong program. All of the lessons and activities are about building, enhancing, and becoming more aware of good 'character' and what it's all about.

What are some examples of good character? Just a few examples include:
Honesty • Bravery • Compassion • Leadership • Courage • Selflessness • Loyalty

Of course, making connections/relationships remain as the fundamental foundation of our homeroom program. As we 'fall' into October, we will display our Panther Pride and show support for our school community with UNITY DAY. This year, UNITY DAY will be held on Wednesday, October 18. This signature event of National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month has been recognized in the United States since 2011. On this day, we encourage everyone to wear **ORANGE**, and we assemble for pictures and activities in order to support those who have experienced bullying, as well as signifying our school unity in ending bullying in all forms. Go Panthers!

Now that school is in full swing, we want to emphasize staying current on schoolwork. Falling even a little behind can add tremendous stress and can quickly become overwhelming. Please stress to your child the importance of staying on top of their schoolwork. We want them to be successful, and our teachers are more than willing to help. We encourage you to reach out to us with questions or concerns. It is important that you and your child see us as partners in education. This is also true of your child's mental health. Do not hesitate to contact the counselors (Ms. Lindsay Becker and Mr. Mike Lang) if your child is having overwhelming feelings about school, home or friendships. While those feelings are difficult, it is important to trust that our children are resilient and can get through these little 'fires', in order for them to become 'fireproof'. We are more than happy to assist with this. Lastly, we also love it when students just stop and say 'hi.' We like to hear about the positive things that are going on in their lives, too!

~Ms. Becker and Mr. Lang

The middle school offers two programs that provide time for homework completion and support. The first program is our Success Center. This is now available to students in the morning starting at 7:15 and then again after school until 4:00. It is a supervised time for students to stop in as needed to complete their work, take or retake tests if they missed school, or ask for assistance, if needed. The Success Center for grades 5/6 is located in Room 153. The Success Center for grades 7/8 is located in Room 213. Students can just show up and leave when they have completed their work.

The second program is our Extended Day Program (EDP). This program runs from 3:15-4:15 Monday through Thursday. Students are **signed into** this program by their parents and are **expected** to be in attendance every day--whether they have homework or not. Please see the EDP informational sheet below for more details. If students are involved in co-curriculars, they can still utilize either of these programs. Coaches understand that students will be released at 3:35 to attend the rest of practice. As long as they are in good academic standing, they are allowed to attend their competition. (Coaches also appreciate that students are staying current with their classwork!) EDP will start on Tuesday, October 24, after parent-teacher conferences.

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM (EDP) — Grades 6-8

The West Salem Middle School offers a supervised, after school study time Monday through Thursday from 3:15 - 4:15. This time is provided for students who wish to keep up with their coursework 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 notebook 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 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



STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Each month, teachers send nominations for Student of the Month. September's focus is exemplifying all of our PAWS expectations. Below is a list of three students from each grade level that were chosen because they embody all of the PAWS expectations. Mr. Wopat and Ms. Beld notified parents of this accomplishment, and will meet with them on Monday, October 2, for individual and group photos.

Grade 5

*Logan Borowski
Beckett Teff
Dylan Towner*

Grade 6

*Haylee Barnhardt
Griffin Stakston
Jayden Sullivan*

Grade 7

*Landyn Anderson-Mertz
Cadyn Ciano
Ada Peterson*

Grade 8

*Allie Krueger
Braedyn Olson
Kendrick Stuhr*

CONGRATULATIONS for making a difference in others lives! We appreciate YOU!

Parent Reminders...



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 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.

**PICTURE RE-TAKE DAY
IS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12**



If your child is having retakes, you will need to return the original picture packet to the photographer on October 12. If this is the first time your child is having their picture taken, we will be calling down students alphabetically. They will need to be sure to follow the announcements.

The Middle School Newsletters can be found on the district website - www.salem.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.



"Meet Us in the Middle"





From the Office - Attendance

If your child will be absent from school, **PLEASE** follow the protocol below:

- Call the office at 608-786-2090, Option 1, **before 7:50 a.m.** If you receive the voicemail, please 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 that are ill with strep throat, stomach flu, colds and chicken pox, making it important to have accurate counts. We only report numbers, not student names. If your child's absence is not called into the school in a timely manner, we will call home. If we don't speak to a parent/guardian, it is considered an unexcused absence and consequences may be assigned to the student.
- In lieu of calling, **you may also email Stephanie Pearson** at pearson.stephanie@wsalem.k12.wi.us with absences, medical appointments, etc.
- **Calling in absences ahead of time, like medical appointments, vacations, etc. is highly encouraged!** We will document it so you will not have to call again the day of the absence.
- If your child needs to be picked up for an appointment, **please send a note or call the office as far in advance as possible so that your child can be given an out pass ahead of time.** We appreciate advance notification as it eliminates the need for us to try and find your student at the last minute when he/she is being picked up.
- If your child returns with a medical or dental appointment verification form, 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!

From The School Nurse



Remember to sign your immunization waiver or send your student's immunization record to wsnurses@wsalem.k12.wi.us by October 9!

You may also drop the information off at any school!

Thank you!

Kate Brohmer
District Nurse
608-451-1185



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



Early Release Dates

Wednesdays

**Release at 12:20
Buses leave at 12:30**

October 11

February 7

May 8

West Salem Odyssey of the Mind

Odyssey of the Mind teams will be forming soon! Odyssey of the mind (OM) is a creative problem solving extra-curricular program for students who enjoy thinking differently, solving problems, working in a team, and having fun! Teams usually meet once a week for about an hour until closer to competition which is on Saturday, March 23, 2024 in Madison. Teams can have a maximum of 7 students and need a coach. Parents make great coaches and free training will be provided! Application forms can be found in the Middle School Office or Room 146 (Mrs. Kinstler's General Music Room). **Application forms are due back on Friday, October 6.** Any questions can be sent to Mrs.



"Meet Us in the Middle"





Reading: Students are working on finishing their reading books. They should be completing their yellow slips as they finish their book. We will be discussing character traits and will take our first assessment in October.

Writing: Students are working through the writing process and are publishing their first writing choice piece. They will be starting to write Narratives this month. We have also been working through spelling sight words and other grammar skills like capital letters and prefixes/suffixes.

Math: We will finish up our fraction unit in the beginning of October. Students will also be doing a mini-project related to the skills they learned in our first unit. We will start the second unit this month which focuses on adding and subtracting decimals.

Science: First trimester the students learn all about matter. We're using the scientific method to help us learn about phases of matter and how they change, chemical and physical changes, mixtures and solutions and much much more when it comes to MATTER.

Social Studies: Students are wrapping up their map skills unit which includes global awareness. We will be moving into our European Explorers unit.



iPads: Students are starting to get more assignments on their iPad. They will be able to bring their iPads home to complete their assignments. They will continue to leave them at school unless they have homework to complete. We would like to remind families that the iPads are a learning tool and should be used as such. Students need to have iPads fully charged when they come to school.

Homework Hotline: This tool is available on the school website. If you go under schools and click on the Middle School, then click on Families you will see Homework Hotline listed. This is a shared google sheets document that every teacher updates at the beginning of the week. It will list the assignments that were assigned each day. Most are due the next day, but if they have a longer time to work on it, then the teacher will list the day it is due. This is extremely helpful if your child is sick or leaves school early.

Upcoming Dates:

October 11th: Early Release

October 12th: Picture retake day

October 13th: Mid Term of Tri-1

October 19th: Parent Teacher Conferences

October 20th: No School

October 23rd: Parent Teacher Conferences

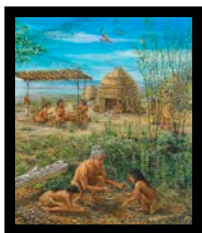
October 27th: No School (Teacher Inservice)





Social Studies - Mrs. Jeranek

Social Studies allows us to focus on non-fictional reading strategies to formulate a main idea and supporting details for better understanding of informational texts.



September allowed us to get to know each other, and we worked to improve our geographic skills. Map distribution had us analyzing various data on different types of maps. October will find us in the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods, as well as the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia. Our focus will be on human-environmental interactions, movements of people and technological innovations of these various groups of people.

Targets to Cover:

Map Use- Use various maps to ask and answer geographic questions

Spatial Thinking- Interpret patterns in a variety of maps, charts, and graphs to display geographic information and explain relationships among them.

Reasons People Move- Analyze patterns of migration of various types

Use of Technology- Differentiate between intended and unintended consequences of various forms of technology and how they effect societies

Math - Mrs Alo and Mrs. Jehn

Students completed Chapter 1 in September. Chapter 1 covered topics such as powers and exponents, order of operations, greatest common factor, and least common multiple. In October students will complete Chapter 2 learning how to multiply and divide fractions and mixed numbers as well as add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals efficiently. Knowing multiplication and division fast facts will be imperative to your child doing well in Chapter 2 and the rest of the year.

Accelerated Math - Mrs. Jehn

Students completed Chapter 1 in September, which covered topics such as powers and exponents, order of operations, greatest common factor, least common multiple. They also began Chapter 2 and learned how to multiply and divide fractions and mixed numbers as well as add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals efficiently. Students will finish Chapter 3 in October which

includes ratios, ratio tables, rates, unit rates, comparing ratios and rates, percents, and converting measures. This is a great chapter because it is so applicable to their lives now and forever. Who doesn't want to find the best deal or price and save the most money? When was the last time you had to tip a server or hairdresser? Ask your child to shop with you to help you find unit price, compare purchases, and find the best buy - happy shopping and saving!

English - Mrs. Buisman

6th grade English students have been working so hard at drafting small moment narratives. In October, students will choose their one "keeper story" to make their best one yet. In class, we've been focusing on adding details by exploding the moment, showing, not telling, adding dialogue, and keeping the moments in perspective. Students will learn about writing a lead to their story, as well as an ending to engage the reader and wrap things up. I am proud of the hard work students have put in so far. The final small moment will be used as an assessment in Skyward showing the many learning targets we have been working on.

Science - Mrs. Jarosh

Students have been learning the importance of working together in Science. We are breaking down all parts of the scientific method. Your child may come home and try some of the experiments! Learning to ask testable questions, set up and carry out experiments is so engaging. Students are learning and putting to use new vocabulary including independent and dependent variables!





Reading - Mrs. Schultz

We have started out the word work portion of the year with prefixes. Understanding what different prefixes, suffixes and roots mean will help students develop a larger and stronger vocabulary since the literature they will be reading in the future will include more sophisticated language. Each set of words follow similar routines. We start out by accessing our background knowledge and seeing what words are familiar to us. Students complete sorting activities, play games, and complete other practice activities using what I call their "cheat sheet". Each pair of words end with a quiz. We also have been discussing different learning styles (visual, auditory, and kinesthetic) and students are trying to figure out the best way they learn in order to be successful learners!

SSR and creating a regular routine of independent reading is another focus of 6th grade Reading. Students should be reading at least 20 pages or 20 minutes between class periods. If students read 20 pages every two days, a book of approximately 200 pages should be completed within a month or so. Students know to adjust their reading amount if their book is longer than 200 pages.

We have also begun a **15 Book Challenge** where students set a goal of how many books they will read this school year. Check in with your student to find out their goal! Some of the books counted will be class novels, but most will be independent. At the beginning of a new independent reading unit, I allow at least 2 class periods for students to browse Destiny Discover, go to the LMC, and choose a book they are interested in reading. My rule is they have to get at least 15-20 pages into a novel before abandoning it for another. This eliminates students picking up a new book each independent reading time, and ensures they will finish their "keeper". Their first choice read Book Critique is due early in October. In November, we will be focusing on the Action/Adventure genre.

The class novel we will begin mid-October, *Touching Spirit Bear*, falls under the genre of action/adventure. This class novel will be read within the class day. I provide the option of listening to the audio version or reading the book independently. This option accompanies only this first novel, the rest of our class novels will be independently read. Please make sure your student has a pair of **earbuds/headphones** that he or she can bring to school on a consistent basis. Students may be bringing their packets home to reflect on the day's reading, but the books stay at school.

Please encourage your child to be vigilant about using their assignment notebook (once they get theirs!), checking emails once a week, and looking over Google Classroom information posted by all 6th grade teachers.

Happy Reading!
Mrs. Schultz

Healthy Living...

The Healthy Living team will be welcoming six UW-LaCrosse students into our classroom. They will have the opportunity to teach our 5th and 6th graders twice a week. Please remind your kiddos to have athletic shoes on the days they have Healthy Living. We will continue to head outside most days for Healthy Living until the weather gets too cold.



"Meet Us in the Middle"



A decorative border made of musical staves and notes. The staves are blue and red, with notes in blue and red. The notes are of various shapes, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and some are beamed together. The border is rectangular and frames the central text.

6th Grade Choir & Band Concert

Thursday, October 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Choir performs first

Followed by the band

Marie W. Heider Center for the Arts
405 East Hamlin Street in West Salem

**Students should arrive at the Heider Center by 6:30 p.m.,
dressed in the concert uniform**

**Mrs. Kinstler - General Music**

5th Grade General Music: Students are continuing to learn about folk songs. We have shifted our view to the sea and learned nautical folk songs entitled Haul Away Joe, Who is the Captain Now?, and The Wellerman. Students have been demonstrating their continuous growth in rhythm through playing and creating their own rhythms using rhythm cups. They have also enjoyed learning about and playing the xylophones, metallophones, and glockenspiels. Up next...Bucket Drumming!!! (among many other fun activities!)

6th Grade General Music: These young musicians are learning how to be pianists! We started with performing Merrily We Roll Along on the black keys and now we are learning the names and how to locate the white keys on the piano. They individually perform various songs in their book for Mrs. Kinstler as their 'test' in class. Soon, we will be taking a break from keyboards and will be learning about traditional Chinese instruments and will be creating some GarageBand projects using those instruments.

7th Grade General Music: It has been a slow start to guitars, but we are working on how to write and read TAB music for guitar. Students will be performing short exercises for Mrs. Kinstler as their 'test' in class. Ask your child what 'Eddie Ate Dynamite Good Bye Eddie' stands for!

8th Grade General Music: Students spent the first few weeks of school doing GarageBand projects and a few of them may be used in our WSMS Live daily announcements soon! Up next, by popular demand is country music. Students did an activity called country music four corners and a country music digital escape room. Four out of nine teams got out the room and into the box for a treat during class. Now we will be starting a short guitar unit in which students will learn about the parts of the guitar and a few chords to be able to play an old country classic by 'The Man in Black.'

**Ms. Nimm - General Music/Choir/Soundscapes/African Drumming**

5th Grade General Music: Students are continuing to learn about folk songs. We have shifted our view to the sea and learned nautical folk songs entitled Haul Away Joe, Who is the Captain Now?, and The Wellerman. Students have been demonstrating their continuous growth in rhythm through playing and creating their own rhythms using rhythm cups. They have also enjoyed learning about and playing the xylophones, metallophones, and glockenspiels. Up next...Bucket Drumming!!! (among many other fun activities!)

6th Grade Choir has been learning how to work together as a choir - having everyone sing the same pitches, use good singing techniques, and blending their sound. They have learned a variety of warm-ups and how to navigate printed choir music. They also started learning to Sight-Sing, which is reading rhythms and melodies without having a demonstration of what they should sound like beforehand. To do this, they have learned goofy words "Ta's and Ti-ti's" for rhythms, as well as "Do, Re, Mi's" for pitches.

7th & 8th Grade Choirs have been reviewing warm-ups, sight-singing, and have started to learn options for their concert music. Both choirs have also been focusing on good singing techniques including singing posture, supporting the sound, and appropriate vowel shapes. They also have been working on finding their head voices, which tend to be a bit softer and lighter than their mid-voice ranges.

Small Choir (6th grade) has been reviewing note and rest names, as well as their values. They have also been learning about time signatures so that they can begin writing their own rhythmic piece of music. This is a multi-step project titled "Pizza Rhythms". It will culminate in using classroom instruments to perform each student's composition.

Soundscapes (7th grade) started the year with a GarageBand project that used pre-recorded "loops". These loops were combined to create a mini rock band - keyboards, guitar, bass, and drums. As the project progressed, students learned how to manipulate the pre-recorded tracks and make their song into something interesting for their audience to listen to. They also put their song into A-B-A format by thinking of an Oreo cookie. With the completion of this project, they will begin a unit on how your body works together to produce sound.

African Drumming (8th grade) started the year with a GarageBand project that used pre-recorded "loops" that fell into the category of "World Music". Four to six different loops were used to create a mini song. As the project progressed, students learned how to manipulate the pre-recorded tracks, and make their song into something interesting for their audience to listen to. They also put their song into A-B-A format by thinking of an Oreo cookie. With the completion of this project, they will begin learning about the world instruments that will be used in our class, as well as cultural connections to a variety of musical styles from the continent of Africa.



Reading - Mrs. Rochester and Ms. Friell

Classroom Supplies: All students are required to have a binder and a composition notebook. The binder and notebook are left in the classroom so they are never lost and remain easily accessible. In addition, students should bring headphones and an independent reading book to class each day.

Agendas/Lessons: Work to be turned in for grade is posted on the Homework Hotline. The specific daily plan is posted in Google Classroom. 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. Students have been reviewing and learning strategies to write paragraphs and summaries.

Reading: In addition to reading their self-selected books daily, we have been reading short stories. During the month of October we will continue reading short stories. We will also read the novel The Outsiders. This classic explores the themes of family, friendship, and growing up. Students will be given reading time at school but will also be expected to read at home. They will also be given an opportunity to listen to The Outsiders via Google Classroom. Students will be assessed on reading and writing learning targets as they read the novel.

Regular Math - Mrs. Weber & Mrs. Piersma

Welcome Back! The first month flew by and we are off to a great start in math. We finished up our first unit on adding/subtracting integers and rational numbers. These can be a bit tricky with negative numbers and fractions but the kids worked hard and did great. Our second unit is multiplication and division of these same numbers.

Pre-Algebra- Mrs. Weber

Welcome Back!! We are off to a great start. We have finished our first unit on equations, and we have moved on to inequalities. The kids are enjoying the challenge of Mathcounts and learning that using their resources is extra important on those challenging questions.

Social Studies - Mr. Mahlum

In October, the students will finish up the unit on immigration. Then, we will turn our attention to the beginning of our nation. We will look at what led up to the Revolutionary War and how we started out as a newly independent nation. Towards the end of October we will start looking at the Constitutional Convention and how the people there created the document we still follow today.

Science - Mr. Baker

In science this year, we are starting small and then working our way up to the big stuff! We broke out the microscopes and started looking at all the things we don't normally get to see. Students have been working on building their own three dimensional cells and spent a day at the Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge and Perrot State Park! We went canoeing, hiked up Brady's Bluff, searched the muck for macroinvertebrates, and used all our senses to make observations of the world around us!



"Meet Us in the Middle"



GRADE 8

newsletter



OCTOBER EDITION

ELA- Mrs. Meyer & Ms. Sackett

We are off to a great start in 8th grade ELA and have settled into our routine which includes both reading and writing every day. Throughout the entire year, we will practice using a variety of sentences to help our writing flow. Currently, we are reviewing compound sentences and beginning complex sentences. Our first unit of the year is focusing on Personal Identity. Students will read a variety of texts and relate them to their own identity while studying the writer's craft to gain new writing techniques. We will be reading and studying personal essays so that we are able to write our own personal essays toward the end of Trimester 1. Our first read aloud of the year is *Linked* by Gordon Korman; this book tells the story of Link Rowley as he struggles to overcome challenges at school and figure out who he is.

Targets covered in Trimester 1:

- R.1 Make logical inferences from a text
- R.2 Cite textual evidence that strongly supports an analysis of a text
- R.5 Analyze how parts of a text reveals aspects of a character
- L.1 Correctly write compound sentences
- L.2 Correctly write complex sentences
- L.4 Demonstrate appropriate use of the conventions of standardized English grammar and usage when writing or speaking
- W.1 Write a clear claim/thesis
- W.3 Clearly introduce an examined topic by beginning with a hook, including background information, and finishing with the claim/thesis statement
- W.5 Develop a topic with relevant facts and details
- W.6 Create writing that utilizes effective transitions
- S.2 Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats



SCIENCE- Ms. Smith- Waller

How is it possible that the first month of school has already passed us by?!? Last month we started our Weather unit where we made observations both on maps and of the current weather we saw outside. We have collected data on the weather and now we will use that information to make a prediction and identify the locations of different air masses. We will spend the rest of the month learning about the Earth's surface and how it changes through weathering, erosion, and deposition. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

Essential Learning Outcomes:

- Planning and Carrying Out Investigations: Collect data to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence to answer scientific questions or test design solutions under a range of conditions.
 - MS-ESS2-5: Collect data to provide evidence for how the motions and complex interactions of air masses results in changes in weather conditions.
- 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.

SOCIAL STUDIES- Ms. Morgan

October brings our exploration of United States history to the years leading up to the American Revolution and the Revolution itself. Throughout our study, we will be using our skills as historians to explore different perspectives of those who lived the events through primary and secondary sources.

Our learning targets this month are:

- 8.RR.1: Analyze the role of propaganda in spreading revolutionary ideas
- 8.RR.2: Compare and contrast the view of the loyalists and patriots
- 8.RR.3: Summarize the impact of important individuals on the events leading up to the American Revolution
- 8.RR.4: Justify the Patriots' decision to break away from Great Britain
- 8.AR.1: Compare and contrast the American and British advantages and disadvantages during the war
- 8.AR.2 Interpret the role of important individuals and events leading to the end result of the American Revolution
- 8.AR.3: Assess the purpose and accomplishments of the First and Second Continental Congress
- 8.AR.4: Explain the role of allies in the American Revolution

If your student is interested in attending the end of the year trip to Washington DC, please be on the lookout for details arriving home in October. There will also be a candle fundraiser in November to help defray the costs of any of the end of the year trip.



MATH 8- Mrs. Coe & Mrs. Snook

We began Unit 2 called "Transformations" at the end of September, and will be taking our test at the end of October.

Regular Math (Unit 2) - Mrs. Coe and Mrs. Snook

The learning targets for Unit 2:

- 2.1: Translate figures in the coordinate plane
- 2.2: Reflect figures in the coordinate plane
- 2.3: Rotate figures in the coordinate plane
- 2.4: Understand the concept of congruent figures
- 2.5: Dilate figures in the coordinate plane
- 2.6: Understand the concept of similar figures
- 2.7: Find perimeters and areas of similar figures

ALGEBRA- Mrs. Coe

We will be starting Unit 3 which is Graphing Linear Functions. We will continue our Mathcounts each week.

The learning targets for Unit 3:

- 3.1: Understand the concept of a function
- 3.2: Describe characteristics of functions
- 3.3: Identify and graph linear functions
- 3.4: Understand and use function notation
- 3.5: Graph and interpret linear equations written in standard form
- 3.6: Find the slope of a line and use slope-intercept form
- 3.7: Graph transformations of linear functions
- 3.8: Graph absolute value functions



"Meet Us in the Middle"



Mr. Jones - S.T.E.M.**6th Grade STEM**

Students in 6th grade are currently learning about the engineering design process. The students are using the engineering design process to develop an ankle foot orthosis for a child in need out of recycled materials. After successfully completing this challenge the students will present their results to the class.

**7th Grade STEM**

Students in 7th grade are experiencing some "technical drawings" which challenges them to draw from three perspectives. The students are learning how to multi-view sketch objects, measure them to the nearest 1/16 of an inch, and dimension the drawings on paper. These isometric and orthographic drawings will help as we work with a program called Tinkercad to generate 3D models on the computer. Soon we will be using our knowledge of sketching to create our own puzzle cubes to take home.

8th Grade STEM

The 8th grade students are working hard on a paper roller coaster project. We are trying to see who can come up with the longest lasting coaster when a marble gets sent down the track. The students are working their way through the design process and being creative with their work! It'll be fun to see who comes up with the best design.

Robotics

In robotics students are learning about gears and applying their knowledge to build the gears out of VEX robotics pieces.

Art - Mrs. Hemker**Grade 5**

We will begin October with students finishing up their pop art portraits and realistic self portraits. 5th graders will have an opportunity to experience clay this month. They will create a pinch pot animal and also create a cupcake container. Both projects will be a review of a variety of clay techniques that they have learned since they were in Kindergarten. Both of these projects will also be glazed before a second firing. 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 October 6th grade will also be working in clay. They will be working on a new technique that involves carving a solid form to create a container. They will also be creating a clay animal rattle or whistle. We will also be working on a variety of drawing projects which include researching famous artists.

Grade 7

This month 7th graders will complete their one point perspective work. We will also be working on a drawing that includes three different styles in one piece. Our final piece will be a collage painting using magazine pages to add the color to the drawings that we create.

Grade 8

Students in 8th grade will soon begin their wall block designs. 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 with some clay time.

8th Grade Elective

There are a variety of topics and media to explore in October. This class will be creating watercolor palettes that will be used to paint a liquid watercolor painting. They will be creating an acrylic tree painting that involves multiple layers and techniques. We will also be doing multi-layered cardboard relief drawings. We continue ongoing work that includes small samples of the materials, and examples of work we have been completing.



Panther Time & Spanish with Señor Hinman

5th & 6th Grade Panther Time

In 5th and 6th grade PT, we learned greetings and farewells, and will be continuing to learn the Spanish alphabet and numbers. We are also going over the importance of National Hispanic Heritage Month and events going on in our communities.

7th & 8th Grade Panther Time

In 7th and 8th grade PT, we learned about Spain and the culture related to that country. From there, we are exploring the cultural aspects of Mexico as well as some of the hispanic nations of Central and South America. We are also going over the importance of National Hispanic Heritage Month and events going on in our communities.

7th Grade Spanish

In 7th grade Spanish, we are utilizing a method known as TPRS (Total Physical Response-Storytelling). The stories have a humorous twist to them and contain words which we are also acting out. This acting out of words is called TPR or Total Physical Response. We are also going over the importance of National Hispanic Heritage Month and events going on in our communities.

8th Grade Spanish

In 8th grade Spanish, we are also doing TPRS and TPR, however, the stories we're using are the same ones as used in the high school Spanish level 1 class. The goal of this class then is to help students skip level 1 and to enter directly into the Spanish 2 class at the high school level. We are also going over the importance of National Hispanic Heritage Month and events going on in our communities.

October 2023

West Salem Middle School

Lunch

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2	3	4	5	6
From the Grill • Chicken Patty - Hot and Spicy Whole Grain Bun • Baked Sweet Potato Crinkle Fries Home Style • Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich on WG Bun • Baked Sweet Potato Crinkle Fries Deli Line • Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap White Chicken Chili Grab and Go • Panther YOGURT Pack • Panther PBJ Pack	From the Grill • Cheese Quesadilla • Refried Beans Home Style • Pork Taco on Soft Shell Tortilla • Refried Beans • Taco Topping Bar Deli Line Ham & Swiss on WG Croissant Baked Scoop Chips and Salsa Grab and Go • Panther YOGURT Pack • Panther PBJ Pack	From the Grill Chicken and Waffles - Chicken Tenders served with Belgian Waffles • Whole Kernel Sweet Corn Home Style Chicken and Waffles - Chicken Tenders served with Belgian Waffles • Whole Kernel Sweet Corn Deli Line Garden Salad with Choice of Meat/Yogurt/Cottage Cheese • Creamy Chicken Pot Pie Soup Grab and Go • Panther YOGURT Pack • Panther PBJ Pack	Sweet Treat Thursday!! Pudding From the Grill • Sausage Pizza • Green Beans Home Style • Homemade Sloppy Joe on WG Bun • Green Beans Deli Line • Turkey BLT on White Wheat Sandwich Bread Sliced Apples with Caramel Cup Grab and Go • Panther YOGURT Pack • Panther PBJ Pack	From the Grill • Corn Dog • Mixed Vegetables Home Style • Garlic Mozzarella Cheese Twists with Marinara Dipping Cup • Mixed Vegetables Deli Line • Ham & Cheese Sub Vegetable Beef Soup Grab and Go • Panther YOGURT Pack • Panther PBJ Pack
9	10	11	12	13
From the Grill • Cheesy Garlic French Bread Pizza Marinara Dipping Cup • Mixed Vegetables Home Style • Tater Tot Hot Dish • Mixed Vegetables • WG Dinner Roll Deli Line • Turkey Sub • Vegetarian Minestrone Grab and Go • Panther YOGURT Pack • Panther PBJ Pack	From the Grill Burrito • Whole Kernel Sweet Corn Home Style • Walking Taco on Corn Chips • Taco Topping Bar Deli Line Ham and Swiss on Croissant Fresh Fruit Deluxe Salad Grab and Go • Panther YOGURT Pack • Panther PBJ Pack	From the Grill • Chicken Nuggets with Cheez-It Crackers • Seasoned Brown Rice • Steamed Broccoli Home Style Chicken Teriyaki with Seasoned Brown Rice Steamed Broccoli Deli Line • Chef Salad w/Ham & Cheese, Bug Bite Crackers Grab and Go • Panther YOGURT Pack • Panther PBJ Pack	From the Grill • Cheeseburger on WG Bun Spiral Fries Home Style • Hamburger on WG Bun Spiral Fries Deli Line • Turkey and Cheddar on WG Bun • Brown Chicken & Wild Rice Soup Grab and Go • Panther YOGURT Pack • Panther PBJ Pack	From the Grill • Pepperoni Pizza • Honey-Glazed Carrots Home Style • Cheese Pizza • Honey-Glazed Carrots Deli Line • Cuban Flatbread Sandwich • Chicken Dumpling Soup Grab and Go • Panther YOGURT Pack • Panther PBJ Pack
16	17	18	19	20
From the Grill • Bakalar's Hot Dog on WG Bun • Mac n' Cheese Home Style • Bratwurst on a Bun • Mac n' Cheese Deli Line Ham, Turkey and Cheddar Sub • Brown Chicken & Wild Rice Soup Grab and Go • Panther YOGURT Pack • Panther PBJ Pack	From the Grill • Diced Chicken & Gravy with Buttermilk Biscuit • Mashed Potatoes Home Style • Meatballs & Gravy with Buttermilk Biscuit • Mashed Potatoes Deli Line Turkey and Swiss on WG Sandwich Bread • Cottage Cheese Grab and Go • Panther YOGURT Pack • Panther PBJ Pack	From the Grill • Chicken Potstickers Seasoned Brown Rice • Cooked Carrots Home Style • Orange Chicken Seasoned Brown Rice • Cooked Carrots Deli Line Garden Salad with Choice of Meat/Yogurt/Cottage Cheese White Chicken Chili Grab and Go • Panther YOGURT Pack • Panther PBJ Pack	Sweet Treat Thursday!! • 100% Fruit Juice Slushy From the Grill • Polish Kielbasa with Potato & Cheese Pierogies • Garlic Roasted Green Beans Home Style • Chicken Tenders • Animal Crackers • Garlic Roasted Green Beans Deli Line • Crispy Chicken Wrap • Goldfish Crackers Grab and Go • Panther YOGURT Pack • Panther PBJ Pack	No School

23

- From the Grill
- BBQ Rib Sandwich
 - Waffle Fries
- Home Style
- Pulled Pork Sandwich
 - Waffle Fries
- Deli Line
- Southwest Chicken Salad
 - Corn Bread Muffin
- Grab and Go
- Panther YOGURT Pack
 - Panther PBJ Pack

24

- From the Grill
- Cinnamon French Toast Sticks and Jones Dairy Sausage Links
 - Warm Cinnamon Apples
- Home Style
- Cinnamon French Toast Sticks with Colby Cheese Omelet
 - Warm Cinnamon Apples
- Deli Line
- Turkey BLT on Sub Roll
 - Creamy Tomato Soup
- Grab and Go
- Panther YOGURT Pack
 - Panther PBJ Pack

25

- From the Grill
- Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich on WG Bun
 - Peas & Carrots
- Home Style
- Cheese Pizza
 - Peas & Carrots
- Deli Line
- Ham & Cheese Wrap
 - Cottage Cheese
- Grab and Go
- Panther YOGURT Pack
 - Panther PBJ Pack

26

- From the Grill
- Pasta with Italian Meat Sauce
 - Garlic Breadstick
 - California Blend Vegetables
- Home Style
- Pasta with Marinara Sauce
 - Garlic Breadstick
 - California Blend Vegetables
- Deli Line
- **Turkey and Swiss on WG Croissant**
 - Chicken Noodle Soup
- Grab and Go
- Panther YOGURT Pack
 - Panther PBJ Pack

27

No School

30

- From the Grill
- (Cheese) Hamburger on WG Bun
 - Potato Smiles
- Home Style
- Breaded Ravioli Squares with Marinara Sauce
- Deli Line
- Southwest Chicken Salad
 - Corn Bread Muffin
- Grab and Go
- Panther YOGURT Pack
 - Panther PBJ Pack

31

- Home Style
- Saucy Orange Popcorn
 - Chicken Seasoned Brown Rice
 - Whole Kernel Sweet Corn
- From the Grill
- Popcorn Chicken Seasoned Brown Rice
 - Whole Kernel Sweet Corn
- Deli Line
- Chicken Caesar Wrap
 - Cheez-It Crackers
- Grab and Go
- Panther YOGURT Pack
 - Panther PBJ Pack

Menu likely to change based on product availability.

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HARVEST OF THE MONTH NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023



Apples are the Harvest of the Month!

Add apples to your favorite family meals:

- Mix apple chunks into your hot cereal.
- Pair apple slices with cheese.
- Add thin apple slices to chicken salad or peanut butter sandwich.

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

Select – Choose firm apples with smooth and shiny skin.

Store – Refrigerate in a plastic bag for up to 3 weeks.

Prepare – Eat whole or sliced. Leave on the skin for extra nutrients!

Did you know?

There are over 7,500 varieties of apples grown across the world. Some Wisconsin favorites include Gala, McIntosh, Golden Delicious, Honey Crisp, and Cortland.



Nutritious, Delicious, Wisconsin!
#WIHarvestoftheMonth

This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – SNAP. The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension is an EEO/AA institution committed to diversity among its employees and in its programs.

Recipe of the month

Fruit Salsa with Cinnamon Chips Serves 8

Fruit Salsa Ingredients:

- 1 apple, cored & chopped into small pieces.
- 1 cup fresh strawberries (chopped) or 1 (10 oz.) pkg. frozen (or any fruit will work)
- 2 kiwi, peeled & chopped
- ½ cup crushed pineapple, drained

Directions:

Combine all chopped fruit, chill.

Cinnamon Chips Ingredients:

- 8 (8 inch) whole wheat flour tortillas
- 1 tsp cinnamon mixed with 1/2 cup sugar
- Pan spray

Directions:

Spray tortillas slightly with pan spray. Sprinkle with cinnamon/sugar mixture. Cut each tortilla into eight wedges and place on a baking sheet. Bake 350° for 6 min or until crisp. Cool on a rack & store in airtight container. If stored, correctly, chips can be made at least one week in advance. Dip chips in salsa and eat.

Note: Air fryer method: Set for 350° Layer chips in single layer. Cook 7-9 minutes until lightly browned and crisp turning halfway.

Per serving: 225 calories, 5g fat, 3.5g protein, 42g carbohydrate, 5g fiber, 151mg sodium



Coulee Region Farm to School is a partnership between UW-Madison Division of Extension, LaCrosse County Health Department, Mayo Clinic Health System—Franciscan Healthcare, Gundersen Health System, and the School Districts of Bangor, LaCrescent-Hokah, Holmen, LaCrosse, Onalaska, and West Salem.