

PANTHER POST



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



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OFFICE: 608-786-2090 FAX: 608-786-1081

Dear Panther Families,

We had a fantastic HOMECOMING WEEK at WSMS. It's great to see our school and community spirit on display. We are a full month into the school year and it's been a great start! Our staff are 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

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

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

MORNING PROCEDURES

Doors will open for students at 7:15 a.m. 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 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 6	6 TH GRADE BAND PREVIEW CONCERT
OCTOBER 7	EARLY RELEASE - STUDENTS DISMISSED AT 12:20PM
OCTOBER 9	MIDTERM 1
	BAND NIGHT AT VARSITY FOOTBALL GAME
OCTOBER 14 & 15	7 TH GRADE AT TREMPLEAU WILDLIFE REFUGE AND PERROT STATE PARK
OCTOBER 15 & 16	5 TH GRADE AT OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER
OCTOBER 20 & 21	8 TH GRADE AT OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER
OCTOBER 22	PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES 3:30-7:00PM
OCTOBER 23 - 26	NO SCHOOL
OCTOBER 27	PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES 3:30-7:00PM
NOVEMBER 6	6 TH GRADE AT OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

[FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE LINK](#)

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

7TH & 8TH GRADE FOOTBALL

ASL - INDOOR SOCCER

7TH & 8TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL

6TH - 8TH GRADE CROSS COUNTRY

BUS ROUTES & SCHEDULING

A quick note on bus schedules & route times. We've received a few questions regarding bus ride lengths, so we wanted to share a quick look at how our district transportation timing works!

Because our buses serve multiple schools across the district, morning and afternoon arrival/dismissal times are structured carefully:

Morning Arrival: Buses are scheduled to drop off students no later than 7:40 AM so older students have enough time to get to their classrooms before the morning bell.

Afternoon Dismissal: Buses depart campus starting at 3:20 PM (rather than right at 3:00 PM) once all students are safely loaded across the schools.

CLOTHING DONATIONS

The middle school health office is currently accepting donations of the following gently used clothing items to support students dealing with daily spills, restroom accidents or medical needs.

Womens Sweatpants

Size: XS - XL

Girls Sweatpants

Size: Youth Large - Youth XL

At this time, these are the only items we are in need of.

Having an adequate clothing supply ensures students can quickly and comfortably return to class with minimal interruption to their learning. **Thank you!**

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!

FROM THE NURSE...



Remember to sign your immunization waiver or send your student's immunization record to **wsnurses@wsalem.k12.wi.us** by the 30th day of school!

You may also drop the information off at any school!

Thank you!

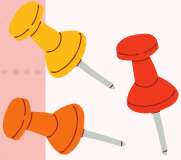


STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Each month, teachers send nominations for Student of the Month. February's focus was **Work Hard - On time for school and class - prepared to learn.** 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



ELISE ARNTSON
BOSTON MCGINNIS
JOSIE WITTE

GRADE 7

ANDREW DAVIDSON
EMERSON FERGUSON
HAILEY ZITZMANN

GRADE 6

HAL BUNGARTZ
OLIVIA JOHNSON
ASPEN KOMAY

GRADE 8

LIAM CRAWFORD
AVA JANDT
AUBREY NEUBAUER



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



5th Grade October Newsletter

Reading: In reading we are wrapping up Unit 1: The Strategic Six. We will move into book clubs by homeroom to practice using The Strategic Six. After that we are moving on to a novel study. We will be reading *The House on Hackman's Hill*. During this unit we will practice quoting evidence, summarizing, and comparing and contrasting characters and plots.

Math: We are starting our fraction unit. This month students will learn how to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers with unlike denominators. Continue practicing multiplication and division facts at home because both are needed to be successful with these fraction operations.

Writing: In writing, kids finished up their first writing choice piece while working through the steps of the writing process. We will be moving into a new unit of writing which will be narrative writing with a final paper. We started into our routines of Phonics and will continue those, along with grammar and spelling skills.

Social Studies: We are wrapping up our first unit, Map Skills & Geography, and moving into Early European Exploration. We will discuss the cause and effect of historical events and the cost and benefits of a decision.

Science: In science, we have been exploring ecosystems and matter cycling. We have had many fun, hands-on experiences! Throughout the month of October, we will continue investigating nurse logs, and how they help other things live and grow.

The 5th Grade Team

- Callie Fantz
- Katie Fink
- Kamry Kjos
- Whitney Folkers
- Ethan Ringlien
- Claire Schrader
- Caitlin Kopecky

6TH GRADE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER
2026

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 journals 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

English – Mrs. Buisman

6th grade language arts students will be finalizing their "keeper" small moment writing in the month of October. Students will create a lead and an ending, as well as go through the revising and editing process. Students will wrap up their dialogue unit in grammar and focus on crafting complete sentences, rather than fragments. I still need to give many reminders about basic capitalization and punctuation usage, so we will continue to practice this as well.

Social Studies – Mrs. Jeranek

Building Strong Readers

This year, we are using non-fiction reading strategies to help students identify main ideas and key supporting details, giving them the tools they need to master complex informational texts.

A Look Back at September

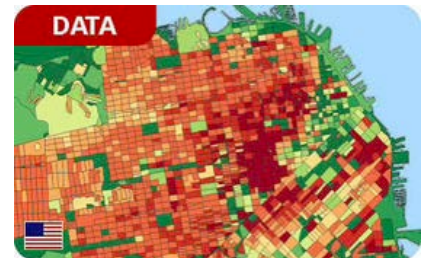
- **Community & Geography:** We spent our first month getting to know one another and sharpening essential map-reading skills.
- **Data Analysis:** Students analyzed map distributions to interpret different types of geographic data.

What's Ahead in October

- **Early Civilizations:** We are diving into the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods, followed by an exploration of ancient Mesopotamia.
- **Key Themes:** Our focus will be on human-environmental interactions, early human migration patterns, and key technological advances that shaped early human history.

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



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 complete Chapters 3 in October which include ratios, ratio tables, rates, unit rates, comparing ratios and rates, percents, and real-life percent problems. 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!

Math – Mrs. Alo & 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.

Science – Mrs. Jarosh

Making claims, gathering data, and using evidence to drive decisions is what science is all about! Over the past couple of weeks, our students have been honing their skills in the scientific method by learning how to ask testable questions, identify and isolate an independent variable, and collect accurate data.

Now, it's time to put those skills to the test! This week, students will apply everything they've practiced as they design and conduct their own investigations using Alka-Seltzer film canister rockets. They will be manipulating their chosen independent variables to see how different factors impact the time it takes to launch. Stay tuned for some exciting data and high-flying results!





7th Grade October Newsletter

ELA



Ms. Friell and Mrs. Rochester

Class Supplies: All students are required to have a 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 continue reading short stories and studying elements of plot. At the end of the month, we will be reading multiple suspense stories and analyzing elements of suspense. Students will also be reading self selected choice books.

Dates to Know



Oct. 7- Early Release

Oct. 14 and 15- all 7th grade students will be going to Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge and Perrot State Park

Oct. 22 - P/T Conferences
3:30-7:00

Oct. 23- No School

Oct. 26- Inservice- No School

Oct. 27 - P/T Conferences
3:30-7:00

Tips/Helpful Links

PLEASE CHARGE YOUR IPAD EVERY NIGHT

[HOMEWORK HOTLINE](#)

Math

Mrs. Piersma and Mrs. Weber



We are off to a great start in 7th Grade! Our first unit introduced addition and subtraction of negative numbers, both integers and rational. We are very impressed with how well the kids are doing with this. In unit 2 we will be multiplying and dividing negative numbers and learning rules to help us.

Pre-Algebra

Mrs. Weber



Our first unit in accelerated math was solving equations. They were introduced to this in 6th grade, however we get into more difficult equations. With a lot of practice and review, we are getting better. We also started our weekly mathcounts homework. I was very impressed with the effort on the first couple. I know this can be challenging but they learn so much math and great strategies from this challenge.

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 will be spending a day at the Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge and a day at Perrot State Park October 14th and 15th! We will be canoeing, hiking up Brady's Bluff, biking, searching the muck for microinvertebrates, and learning about the archeology of the area!

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. Toward the end of October, we will start looking at the Constitutional Convention and how the people there created the document we still follow today.

THE KIDS ARE
LOVING CHIEF
BEING HERE
EVERY WEEK!



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 to study 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 that focus on our hobbies, values and a person who has made an impact in our lives.

Scored Learning Targets:

R.1 Make logical inferences from a text

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

R.3 Determine one or more central ideas and analyze their development over the course of the text

R.5 Analyze how parts of a text reveals aspects of a character

L.1 Correctly write compound sentences

L.6 Demonstrate appropriate use of the conventions of standardized English grammar and usage when writing or speaking

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

W.1 Write a clear claim



SCIENCE- Ms. Smith- Waller

We have been working on our first unit learning about weather. During this unit 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. Next up, we will start our Astronomy unit. We will begin by looking specifically at the Earth-moon-sun system and how those objects interact with each other. We will start with 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 changing colors of the leaves and the beautiful fall weather!

Essential Learning Outcomes:

- WC1-1: Show understanding that complex interactions determine local weather patterns and influence climate
- 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

SOCIAL STUDIES- Ms. Morgan

After building a strong foundation in historical thinking, students are now ready to apply these skills as we begin exploring the formative years of our nation and the American Revolution. This is an especially exciting time to study this era as we celebrate the Semiquincentennial—the 250th anniversary of American independence.

This Month's Learning Targets

Students will:

- Analyze how key individuals and events influenced the independence movement.
- Use content-specific vocabulary accurately.
- Explain British actions that contributed to growing conflict with American colonists.
- Defend the Patriots' decision to declare independence from Great Britain.
- Evaluate the strategies colonists used to protest British policies.
- Create and analyze propaganda that promoted revolutionary ideas.
- Compare the perspectives of Patriots and Loyalists.

Important Washington, D.C. Trip Reminder

If your student is interested in our end-of-year Washington, D.C. trip, watch for more information coming home during the first full week of October. We will also be looking for parent chaperones to join us.

To help make the trip more affordable, we are planning a candle fundraiser in November, followed by an additional fundraiser in February/March. More information about the trip and fundraising opportunities will be shared soon.

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

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





6th Grade Choir & Band Concert

**Thursday, October 6
at 7:00pm**

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

**Choir will
perform
first,
followed by
the band.**



Students should arrive at the Heider Center by 6:30pm, dressed in their concert uniform.

October 2026

NEWSLETTER

WSMS MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Kinstler

5th Grade General Music

(see Miss Nimm's notes)

6th Grade Keyboards and More

Students have played two songs on keyboard for Mrs. Kinstler. On a break from keyboards, students learned about Traditional Chinese Instruments and explored GarageBand

7th Grade Guitars & Musicals

Students can play C & G7 chords on guitar and have been watching "Yankee Doodle Dandy" a biopic of George M. Cohan.

8th Grade Almost Daily Ukulele

Students can play F, C & Am chords on ukulele and are learning how to read uke TAB. Students have also been analyzing music in advertising.

Ms. Nimm

General Music 5

Singing folk songs, Playing Orff instruments, Practicing rhythm reading using bucket drums

Panther Time 5

Playing Orff and classroom instruments, Practicing note names and values

Choir 6

Beginning to read choir music, Learning to sight-read short songs using, Practicing for the October 6th Concert

Small Choir 6

Reviewing recorder playing from 5th grade, Reviewing how to read and write rhythms

Choir 7

Reviewing or learning how to sight-sing using Do/Re/Mi etc., Rehearsing spirituals in two-part harmonies

Soundscapes 7

Discovering the process of creating a musical, Watching *Shrek the Musical*

Choir 8

Reviewing or learning how to sight-sing using Do/Re/Mi etc., Rehearsing spirituals in two-part harmonies

African Drumming 8

Reviewing rhythm reading, Rehearsing "Ensemble 2"

Mr. Waldhart

The WSMS Marching Band & Color Guard completed two outstanding parades at Homecoming and Torch Light. They finish their season on Friday, October 9, performing with the WSHS Marching Band at the halftime of the varsity football vs. Viroqua.

The 6th Grade Band is rocking this fall and working hard for their preview concert coming up on October 6.

Upcoming Dates

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

ARTROOM NEWS

OCTOBER EDITION



Projects are well underway and the gallery is filling up with some amazing art!
All Grades will be moving on to their clay units by the end of the month.

5th grade has finished some Pop Art and Animal Portraits

6th grade finished their portrait samplers and their element books.

7th graders are finishing their peace posters and have turned in their one point perspective work.

8th graders are starting their wall blocks.

8th AE has moved from the acrylic paint unit to the watercolor pencil unit

6th Panther time is almost ready to start their fashion designs.

The ArtRoom LOVES to recycle!

Things we are currently looking for

- Brown paper grocery bags
- Newspapers
- Ends of yarn skiens
- left over ribbon, buttons, colorful tapes or stickers
- Ice cream buckets with lids
- A used iron

MEET OUR STUDENT TEACHER

HELLO! I AM MS. NAHAS, A STUDENT TEACHER FROM UW-LA CROSSE JOINING THE ART DEPARTMENT ALONGSIDE MRS. HEMKER THROUGH HALLOWEEN. I ENJOY CREATING ART WORKING WITH SCULPTURE, CERAMICS, AND PAINTING. MY WORK OFTEN FEATURES THEMES LIKE TACO BELL CAPYBARAS, AND ABSURD IDEAS. I ALSO LOVE PLAYING WITH SCALE BY MAKING LARGE THINGS SMALL AND MAKING SMALL THINGS LARGE. I'M EXCITED TO SHARE MY LOVE AND KNOWLEDGE TO ART AND CREATIVITY WITH WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL WHILE LEARNING ALONGSIDE THEM. PHOTOS ABOVE.

STEM AND ROBOTICS

OCTOBER 2026
MR. JONES

STEM AND ROBOTICS CLASSES

6th Grade STEM: Designing an Ankle Foot Orthosis for a patient

7th Grade STEM: Multiview Sketches of 3D Objects

8th Grade STEM: Making Cardboard Choice Projects

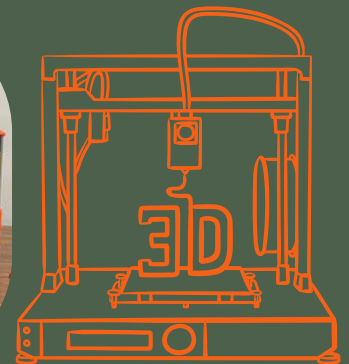
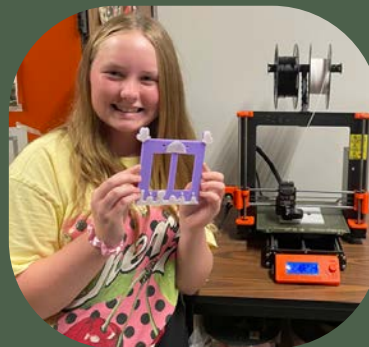
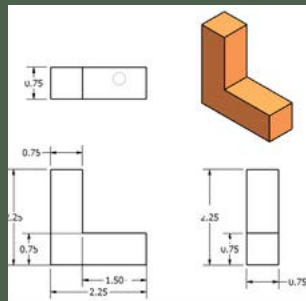
Robotics: Learning how to build and program robots

MR. JONES' PANTHER TIMES

6th Grade: 3D Printing and Architecture Research

7th Grade: 3D Printing and Air Skimmers

8th Grade: Paper Roller Coasters



Octubre

Spanish newsletter



El Mes de la Herencia Hispana



Spanish 7 students are becoming weather experts! We have been learning the days of the week, months, seasons, and weather vocabulary. Students are now putting it all together by creating and presenting their own weather forecasts for a Spanish-speaking city and country.

Spanish 8 students are building their skills by learning helpful classroom phrases such as "¿Puedo ir al baño?" Students are practicing these phrases through fun short stories, descriptions, and lots of repetition to build confidence using Spanish in the classroom.

Spanish I has been learning through the cultural song "Los Pollitos Dicen" while practicing how to read and understand descriptions in Spanish. Students are now writing their own descriptions of a Hispanic figure and will soon bring their learning to life through our very own Museo de Cera, or Wax Museum!

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



MEASUREMENT UNIT

All grades finished their measurement tests at the end of September. Students are able to retake any singular portion of the test, that they may wish. They do not have to retake the whole test.

6TH GRADE -ETC

Students are starting their graphic design unit and will be doing real life scenario work. All of the lessons are posted on the class website (that is linked into google classroom). Students can rewatch lessons and even work ahead on their projects.

7TH GRADE -ETC

Students will be moving into the woodshop this month and working on their nightstand valet projects

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 are finishing up their testing portion of their projects and moving into the design portion of the project

7PT

Workshop Creations

Students are finishing up Cricut Projects and will be working into laser engraver training.

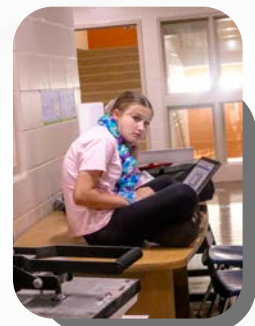
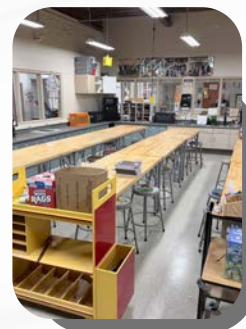
8PT

WSMS Live

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

PANTHER CREATIONS & RETAIL

Students have been introduced to CRICUT by making vinyl wraps for laptop covers in the classroom. They will be moving into building on their layering skills as they will design and cut their own projects on the laser engravers in class.



Healthy Living

We would like to welcome Ms. Johnson and Mr. Boettcher. They will be joining Mr. Brewer on Mondays and Wednesdays until the beginning of December.

5th and 6th grade:
-Invasion games

7th and 8th grade:
- Invasion games
-Cycling
-Crossnet

8th grade will be heading to the school forest either Oct. 20 or 21st



CREATIVE COMPUTING 7TH GRADE



SCRATCH

SCRATCH

Students in Creative Computing have been getting to know a coding environment called Scratch! They have created some fun animations in Scratch that share a bit about themselves and tell some fun jokes.



COMING UP IN OCTOBER

In October we will continue using Scratch to create more complex projects like algorithmic art as well as simple games requiring the use of variables and conditional statements. We will also start learning more about other essential computer science concepts.

LMC & TECHNOLOGY 5TH GRADE



WELCOME!

NATIONAL PARKS

Students in Ms. Schrader's and Ms. Reader's class have been learning about our middle school LMC collection and where to find books that match up with their interests and personalities in our genre-fied fiction collection.

GREEN SCREEN FUN!

These students have also been using their iPads to create some fun green screen creations using our portable green screens in the LMC.



COMING UP IN OCTOBER!

In October we will continue learning how to navigate the fiction and nonfiction sections in the LMC, find "just right" books and use new tech tools on our iPads to create bookmarks, games, and zines.



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



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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.

Lunch Menu



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

OCTOBER LUNCH MENU