

October 2025

WS Newsletter

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Letter from Superintendent Ryan

The Rhythm of Consistency

It is hard to believe that we are headed into October already! I hope everyone who chose to take part had a fun and safe Oktoberfest weekend! This always seems to be the unofficial kickoff to fall, and it led right into our exciting Homecoming week across the district.

From dress-up days in all of our buildings to the assemblies and the always-popular Homecoming parade, it goes without saying: Panther Pride is far and wide! Thank you to all our community members who were present whether in person, in spirit, contribution, or in thought for helping make the week so memorable. A special highlight this year was the induction of our newest members into the

West Salem High School Hall of Fame. Congratulations to Mary Stoker Smith (1987) and Edna Gardner Whyte (1921) on this well-deserved honor! Mary won the title of Miss Wisconsin in 1996 and represented the state in the 1996 Miss USA pageant. She is now a news reporter and anchor in Milwaukee. Edna was an aviator whose career as a pilot instructor spanned over four decades. She was also an air racer who was known to have won over two dozen races.

If you've driven by campus recently, you've no doubt noticed that construction is officially underway at both the elementary school and the high school. Much of the work so far has focused on moving earth in preparation for foundations and footings. Thank you to the Dirt Monkey team for setting the stage for what's to

Letter continues on next page...

come.

An especially exciting milestone will take place on Tuesday, October 8, at 3:00 p.m., when we will hold the official groundbreaking ceremony at the high school. This event will take place behind the high school, near the current aquaponics lab, and is open to all community members. We would be delighted for you to join us as we mark this significant milestone together.

As we move through October, I encourage families to take advantage of the upcoming parent-teacher conferences. These opportunities are a great time to connect, share, and strengthen the partnership between home and school in support of our students' growth and success.

As we prepare for this big leap into the future with our building additions, it's important to pause and remember how we got here. The consistent steps our district has taken and will continue to take have truly laid the foundation for this next chapter. Anyone can sprint for a moment, but what really matters is showing up day after day, building momentum through steady progress.

Progress isn't about speed; it's about rhythm. Every effort we make compounds over time. What may feel small in the moment gains strength and momentum as these efforts accumulate and build upon one another. Bursts of energy may spark motivation, but rhythm is what produces lasting results. In fact, consistency always outperforms intensity. For this, one need not look any further than the National League Central champion Milwaukee Brewers.

As we've begun this school year, we've already taken those first small steps toward what promises to be an outstand-

ing and transformational year ahead.

Together, with rhythm and intention, we will continue to build on the traditions we value and lay the foundation for an even brighter future for our students and the community to come.

I'll leave you with a reminder that speaks to both the rhythm of progress and the relationships that make it possible. Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Let's continue to find ways to come together and build upon our foundation here in West Salem. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and Panther Pride as we move forward into another month of learning, growth, and community.

Ryan Rieber
Superintendent

Calendar of Events October

Athletic Events

Thursday, October 2, 2025

- 4:15pm

ASL - Soccer: Varsity
Game vs. Logan
@ West Salem MS
- 5:00pm

Soccer: Boys JV Match
vs. Onalaska
@ Onalaska Game Field
#1
- 6:00pm

Swimming & Diving:
Girls Varsity Meet vs.
Wisconsin Rapids
Lincoln @ Wisconsin
Rapids Lincoln
High School
- 7:00pm

Soccer: Boys Varsity
Match vs. Onalaska
@ Onalaska Soccer Field
#1

Friday, October 3, 2025

- 7:00pm

Football: Varsity Game
vs. G-E-T @ West Salem
High School

Saturday, October 4, 2025

- 11:00am

Cross Country: Varsity
Invite vs. Aquinas,
Arcadia, Bangor,
Central, Eastview,
Logan, Providence
Academy & Westby
Area High School
@ Maple Grove Cross
Country Course
- 11:00am

Soccer: Boys Varsity
Game vs. Reedsburg
@ West Salem
High School

Monday, October 6, 2025

5:00pm

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

- 4:15pm

ASL - Soccer: Varsity
Game vs. Central High
School @ West Salem
MS
- 5:30pm

Volleyball: Girls
C-Team Game vs.
Viroqua @ West Salem
Middle School
- 5:30pm

Volleyball: Girls JV
Game vs. Viroqua
@ West Salem
High School
- 7:00pm

Volleyball: Girls Varsity
Match vs. Viroqua
@ West Salem
High School

Thursday, October 9, 2025

- 5:00pm

Volleyball: Girls
C-Team Game vs.
Arcadia @ West Salem
Elementary School
- 5:00pm

Volleyball: Girls JV
Game vs. Arcadia
@ West Salem
Middle School
- 5:00pm

Volleyball: Girls Varsity
Match vs. Arcadia
@ West Salem
High School
- 7:00pm

Volleyball: Girls
C-Team Game vs.
Luther @ West Salem
Elementary School
High School

Calendar of events continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

7:00pm	Volleyball: Girls JV Game vs. Luther @ West Salem Middle School	Girls Varsity Invitational vs. Platteville, Edgerton, Lodi & Portage
7:00pm	Volleyball: Girls Varsity Match vs. Luther @ West Salem High School	@ University of Wisconsin-Platteville
Monday, October 13, 2025		
	5:00pm	Football: JV Reserve/ C-Team Game vs. Aquinas @ West Salem High School
Friday, October 10, 2025		Tuesday, October 14, 2025
7:00pm	Football: Varsity Game vs. Aquinas @ UW LaCrosse-Roger Harring Field	4:00pm
Saturday, October 11, 2025		ASL - Soccer: Varsity Game vs. Central High School @ Central High School Hackett Gym
8:30am	Volleyball: Girls Varsity Invitational vs. Amherst, Badger, Cuba City, Madison Memorial & Wisconsin Dells @ Wisconsin Dells High School	5:00pm
		Swimming & Diving: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Black River Falls & Colby @ Black River Falls Middle School
10:00am	Cross Country: Varsity Invitational vs. Adams-Friendship, Aquinas, Assumption, Athens Cloverwood, Columbus Catholic Schools, Flambeau, Luther, Manitowoc, Marshfield, Pacelli Catholic, Port Edwards, Rosholt, Stevens Point Area Senior High School, Tomah, Wausau West & Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln @ Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln High School	5:30pm
		Volleyball: Girls C-Team Game vs. G-E-T @ Gale- Ettrick-Trempealeau High School Gym South
		5:30pm
		Volleyball: Girls JV Game vs. G-E-T @ Gale-Ettrick- Trempealeau High School Gym North
		7:00pm
		Volleyball: Girls Varsity Match vs. G-E-T @ Gale- Ettrick-Trempealeau High School Gym North
11:00am	Swimming & Diving:	

School District of West Salem

Thursday, October 16, 2025

4:00pm	Cross Country: Varsity Conference Tournament vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Luther, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ Skyline Golf Club
5:30pm	Volleyball: Girls C-Team/JV Game vs. Black River Falls @ Black River Falls Fieldhouse
6:00pm	Swimming & Diving: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Platteville @ University of Wisconsin-Platteville
7:00pm	Volleyball: Girls Varsity Match vs. Black River Falls @ Black River Falls Fieldhouse

Friday, October 17, 2025

7:00pm	Football: Varsity Game vs. Black River Falls @ West Salem High School
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Saturday, October 18, 2025

8:00am	Volleyball: JV Invitational vs. Aquinas, Central, Holmen, Logan, Onalaska, Sparta & Tomah @ Central High School
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Tuesday, October 21, 2025

7:00pm	Swimming & Diving: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Hol/Ona/Aq/GET @ YMCA -North (Onalaska)
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Band Events

Friday, October 3, 2025

2:00pm	Homecoming Parade Orange & Black Attire
6:30pm	Homecoming Football Game vs. Luther Arrive at 6:15pm Marching Band Uniform Required

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

6:35pm	Volleyball Game vs. Viroqua
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Friday, October 17, 2025

6:30pm	Football Game vs. Black River Falls Arrive at 6:00pm Marching Band Uniform Required
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Elementary School Events

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

8:30am	1st Grade to the OEC Christianson & Richling
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Thursday, October 2, 2025

8:30am	1st Grade to the OEC Reedy & Chambers
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Friday, October 3, 2025

7:20am	Walking School Bus Meet at the corner of N. Tilson & W. Hamlin Streets
8:30am	1st Grade to the OEC Baldwin & Antony

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

8:30am	2nd Grade to the OEC Hesse, Wagner & Flottmeier
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School District of West Salem

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

All Day Fall Fun Run
12:20pm Early Release
Students dismissed at 12:20pm
Buses depart at 12:30pm

Thursday, October 9, 2025

8:30am 2nd Grade to the OEC
Servais, Schwartz & Pearson

Friday, October 10, 2025

7:20am Walking School Bus
Meet at the corner of N. Tilson & W. Hamlin Streets

Monday, October 13, 2025

8:30am Kindergarten to the OEC
Wheeler & Christianson

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

8:30am Kindergarten to the OEC
Hickey & Wagner

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

8:30am Kindergarten to the OEC
Grams & Passehl
9:15am 4th Grade to the Nature Place
Wegner & Hoff

Friday, October 17, 2025

7:20am Walking School Bus
Meet at the corner of N. Tilson & W. Hamlin Streets

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

3:30- Parent-Teacher
7:00pm Conferences

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

9:15am 4th Grade to the Nature Place
Miller & Ihle

Thursday, October 23, 2025

3:30- Parent-Teacher
7:00pm Conferences

Friday, October 24, 2025

All Day No School

Monday, October 27, 2025

8:30am 3rd Grade to the OEC

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

8:30am 3rd Grade to the OEC

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

8:30am 3rd Grade to the OEC
9:15am 4th Grade to the Nature Place
Steiner & Allind

Thursday, October 30, 2025

9:25am 2nd Grade to the Apple Orchard

Friday, October 31, 2025

All Day No School - Staff Inservice

Middle School Events

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

12:20pm Early Release
Students dismissed at 12:20pm
Buses depart at 12:30pm

Thursday, October 9, 2025

All Day 7th Grade to Trempealeau
Wildlife Refuge - 1/2 of class
7:00pm 6th Grade Band & Choir Concert
@ Heider Center
Students Report @ 6:30

School District of West Salem

Friday, October 10, 2025

All Day 7th Grade to
Trempealeau
Wildlife Refuge - 1/2
of class
All Day Trimester 1 Mid-Term

Monday, October 13, 2025

All Day Trimester 1 Mid-Term
Grades Due

Thursday, October 16, 2025

All Day 8th Grade to the OEC -
1/2 of class

Friday, October 17, 2025

All Day 8th Grade to the OEC -
1/2 of class

Thursday, October 23, 2025

3:30- Parent-Teacher
7:00pm Conferences

Friday, October 24, 2025

All Day No School

Monday, October 27, 2025

3:30- Parent-Teacher
7:00pm Conferences

Friday, October 31, 2025

All Day No School - Staff
Inservice

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

3:30- Parent-Teacher
7:00pm Conferences

Friday, October 24, 2025

All Day No School

Friday, October 31, 2025

All Day No School - Staff
Inservice

High School Events

Friday, October 3, 2025

2:00pm Homecoming Parade
7:00pm Homecoming Game vs.
G-E-T @ West Salem
High School

Saturday, October 4, 2025

7:00pm Homecoming Dance
@ WSHS Gym

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

12:20pm Early Release
Students dismissed at
12:20pm
Buses depart at
12:30pm

CLASS OF 2026: IT IS YOUR TIME

Senior year is finally here! We have an important yearbook deadline to keep in mind. Each senior needs to submit the following photos:

1. Yearbook Portrait

This photo is a traditional, formal head and shoulders pose. You may use this same portrait for everything if you would like.
***No full-length poses, hats, props, “misty” filters, or distracting backgrounds.**



3. Baby Photo

This photo will be used to morph into the “big kid” photo for the Senior Slideshow. The best morphs are created using baby photos where the baby’s face is the dominant part of the photo.



2. Times of Our Lives

This may be less formal.



4. Senior Photo for Slideshow

This photo will be the photo that the baby photo morphs into for the slide show. It can be the same photo used for the Yearbook or Times of our Lives if you would like.



Photos due:
Friday, Nov. 7,
2025

Submit **300 dpi jpeg** photo(s) via email to armstrong.andrea@wsalem.k12.wi.us
Please label photos with the student name and publication - ex. JoeSmithYearbook.
Labeled hard copy photos can be dropped off to room 241 - silver box.

Panthers in Action



Welcome Back!

Last year, our Maintenance Team was honored as the Midwest Facility Team of the Year by the Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials (WASBO), but at their recognition ceremony, they were missing one important member of the team.

Tim Schaller, one of our long-time maintenance team members, was deployed to the Middle East with the Wisconsin Army National Guard shortly before the award was presented. Tim recently returned home and was finally able to receive his award. We are glad to have him back on the team and thank him for his service!



District Announcements



The Importance of Mental Health

Last month, we received a visit from Dr. Jill Underly, State Superintendent of Schools at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction as she spoke with some of our Pupil Services staff about the Stronger Connections Grant we received through DPI. This grant has helped fund the addition of a school social worker in our district, a position that helps connect students and families to community resources and helps to advocate for them when they may be struggling, particularly with mental health issues. Dr. Underly spoke with our school social worker, as well as one of our students about the positive impact this role is having on our students and families, as well as how student and teacher mental health needs have changed throughout the years.



School Board Members

- Catherine Griffin, President ~~~~~(608) 769-1714
 - Erik Peterson, Vice President ~~~~~ (608) 792-5370
 - Bob Gollnik, Treasurer~~~~~ (612) 720-1852
 - Caitlin Wilson, Clerk~~~~~ (608)780-3836
 - Bob Minard, Director~~~~~(608)786-9998
 - Ben Garbers, Director~~~~~(608) 498-9510
 - Trish Harman, Director ~~~~~(608) 332-9222
- *Board meetings are held the second and fourth Monday of every month**

District Announcements

Heider Center



Art Gallery

"I Play Dress Up for a Living" - Set Designs, Costumes, Renderings, Props and Photos from the World of Theatre by Jen Brown
Runs September 3-October 10, 2025

Reception: Friday, October 3
6:00-7:30p.m.

Box Office Hours
(608) 786-2550

Monday &
Thursday: 1:30 to
4:00 p.m.

www.heidercenter.org

Piano Men: Generations

Friday, October 17, 2025

7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$28/\$26/\$10

The music of Billy Joel and Elton John is brought to life by the extraordinary father and son duo of Terry & Nick Davies. They will take you on a mesmerizing journey through the timeless hits that have captured the hearts of music lovers for decades.



Looking for Important Dates?

The district school year calendar, as well as individual building events and athletic events can all be found on our district website. Go to www.wsaalem.k12.wi.us and navigate to the top right corner and click on the calendar icon. From here, you can view the school year calendar, Coulee Conference Athletic calendar, Mississippi Valley Athletic calendar, and individual building events.



Thank You, Lions!

The West Salem Lions Club recently held their annual "Stuff the Bus" Supply Drive and both WSMS and WSHS students greatly benefited from their donations!

Students are required to have Mead expandable folders as part of their supplies and the Lions have donated these for students over the past three years. This year, they donated 70 to the middle school and 25 to the high school! Pictured below are WSMS counselors Lindsay Becker and Brienna Broughton with Lion Jane Henricks and WSMS students. Thank you Lions for your very generous donation and for supporting our students!





REFERENDUM PROJECT UPDATES

What is Happening with the Construction Projects?



It's been an exciting few weeks around campus as dirt is moving and construction on the elementary school gym addition is underway! Contractors have begun excavation and students and staff alike are enjoying watching the projects begin.

High School Addition and Renovation

Design development for the high school addition and renovation projects is now over halfway done as we get closer to groundbreaking on this project. District leadership recently met to discuss technology and casework for all the spaces that are being impacted. The School Board continues to review the budget, and approved the second bid package for footings and foundation at their September 8th meeting.

Construction documents will be finalized for the high school renovation and addition after a full design review with District leadership. We are excited to announce that the groundbreaking for the high school projects will take place on Wednesday, October 8th at 3:00 p.m. at the rear of the high school. We invite all community members to join us as we begin the second phase of our project.

We are so thankful for the community support that has allowed us to provide these new spaces for our students and we can't wait to share more with you as the projects continue!

What Is Next?



- Board Approval of Bid Pack 3 - Steel
- Finalize full Construction Documents for High School
- October 8th, High School Groundbreaking at 3:00 P.M.



*High School Career and Technical Education Renderings



WEST SALEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

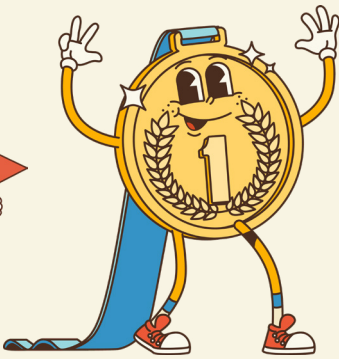
READ LIKE AN ALL-STAR



NOVEMBER 13, 2025

5:00 - 6:30 P.M.

**JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF
GUEST READERS, GAMES,
PRIZES, AND MORE!**



**DINNER WILL BE
AVAILABLE TO
PURCHASE FROM
4:30 - 7:00 P.M.
CASH ONLY!**





JOIN OUR TEAM!

We Are Looking for a Bus Driver & School Nutrition Worker!

APPLY VIA WECAN



Bus Driver

Key Responsibilities

- Current CDL or willing to obtain one
- Ability to work well with students of all ages
- Complete a pre trip inspection & keep the bus clean and orderly
- Approximately 3- 3.5 hours per day

Benefits of Joining Us

- CDL Training & Costs provided by district if needed
- Starting at \$25.52/hour
- Enjoy a school year schedule!
- Ability to take extra trips



School Nutrition Team Member (3.75 hours)

Key Responsibilities

- Food preparation, serving meals, assisting with checkout, washing dishes and cleaning tables

Benefits of Joining Us:

- Paid Food Safety Certification
- Complimentary lunch
- No culinary experience necessary—just a passion for helping kids!
- Starting at \$18.80/hour
- Enjoy a schedule that aligns with your children's: no nights, weekends, holidays, or summers!



School District of West Salem

WSHS Marching Band Takes to the Streets

The WSHS Marching Band has had a busy fall, showing off their skills at the Kellogg Watermelon Days Parade, La Crescent Applefest King Apple Parade, and the La Crosse Oktoberfest Maple Leaf Parade! They have been a community favorite, entertaining everyone with their awesome sound

and moves and even took home first place at the Applefest Parade! In between parades, they've also made time to entertain our home crowd at football games and volleyball games as well. Thank you to our wonderful music staff that lead this group and all of the students for their hard work!



COULEE REGION

FARM to school
LOCAL FOODS, HEALTHY KIDS

Did You Know?

There are over 7,500 varieties of apples grown throughout the world!



Check out videos and photos of the innovative things happening in your student's classroom at our district Facebook page and Instagram page. Our social media features videos of student activities, teacher features, classroom selfie photos, etc...

Check out our Facebook page
[@SchoolDistrictofWestSalem](#)
and

Follow us on X
[@WestSalemSD](#)
and Instagram
[@schooldistrictofwestsalem](#)



For WSHS athletic events, visit our website:

- *click the calendar icon and then
- *click Coulee Conference/
Mississippi Valley Conference
- For WSMS athletic events,
- *click the calendar icon and then
- *Three Rivers Conference

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