

## WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ben Wopat - Principal ★ Amanda Beld - Associate



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Phone - (608) 786-2090 Fax - (608) 786-1081

Dear Families,

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 continue our partnership with UW-La Crosse 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.

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](https://www.twitter.com/coachwopat)



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

**School Starts at 7:50!!**

**PICTURE RE-TAKE DAY  
CHANGED!!  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

**NO SCHOOL  
OCT 21 & 28**

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## Calendar of Events-Athletics

### Cross Country

October 11 @ Myrick Park-La Crosse 4:30

October 18 @ Maple Grove CC (West Salem) 4:00

October 20 @ TBD - CONFERENCE MEET 4:00

### Football (7th Grade)

October 6 @ Luther High School 5:00

October 11 @ Sparta Meadowview MS 4:30

October 17 @ Aquinas High School 4:00

### Football (8th Grade)

October 6 @ Luther High School 6:15

October 13 @ Sparta Meadowview MS 4:30

October 18 @ Aquinas High School 4:00

### Volleyball (7th & 8th Grades)

October 6 @ Aquinas High School 4:00

October 10 @ Lincoln Middle School 3:45

October 13 @ Logan Middle School 3:45

## Calendar of Events-School

October 6 - Gr 7 to Wildlife Refuge (1/2 grade)

October 7 - Gr 7 to Wildlife Refuge (1/2 grade)

October 11 - Gr 6 Choir & Band Concert

October 12 - Early Release @ 12:20

October 13 - Parent/Teacher Conf. 3:30-7:00

October 14 - Gr 6 to OEC

October 17 - Parent/Teacher Conf. 3:30-7:00

October 21 - NO SCHOOL

October 28 - NO SCHOOL

### Counselor Comments - Mr. Lang

We ended September on a 'spirited' week, showing our Panther Pride and cheering on our various Panther teams. Way to go Panthers! Let's keep up this spirit and enthusiasm all year long! As we roll into October, we will begin to define the 8 Essentials of being CharacterStrong: Patience, Kindness, Humility, Respect, Selflessness, Forgiveness, Honesty, and Commitment. Character can look like a lot of things so this is important to help us to agree what we are working on and expecting of each other.

Homerooms will be coming up with creative ways and places to take their homeroom photos. We enjoy this photo op and proudly display these posters in our rooms. It's always fascinating to see the growth over three years.

Now that school is in full swing, the concern of homework (more specifically, getting homework done) is often a topic of conversation that comes up for parents and students.

The middle school offers two programs that may help with homework completion or support. The first program is our Success Center. This is available now to students in the morning starting at 7:00 and then again after school until 4:00. This 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 is located in the BGC (basement) in room 25. The second program is our Extended Day Program (EDP). This program runs from 3:15-4:15 Monday through Friday. Students are signed into this program by their parents and are expected to be there every day. Please see the enclosed EDP informational sheet 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. (Coaches also appreciate that students are staying current with their classwork!) EDP will start later in the month. We will send out a Skyward message when this

program will be starting. Please contact the middle school with any questions.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, October 17 and Monday, October 21. You will initially meet with your child's homeroom teacher, but there will be an open time available for you to meet with a specific teacher if needed. More information will be emailed home regarding these conferences. We look forward to meeting with you and your child together at these fall conferences as students are



expected to lead these conferences with their homeroom teacher.



## STUDENT OF THE MONTH

*Each month, teachers send nominations for Student of the Month. September's focus was Kindness. Below is a list of three students from each grade level that exemplified Kindness. Mr. Wopat and Ms. Beld notified parents of this accomplishment, met with them as a group and took individual and group photos.*

### **Grade 5**

Nolan C.  
Emma L.  
Evelyn B.

### **Grade 6**

Tobie S.  
Avery H.  
Bennett D.

### **Grade 7**

Jaylee S.  
Oliver L.  
Lilly W.

### **Grade 8**

Julia H.  
Eion Kruse  
Ali H.

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

## From the Office

If your child will be absent from school, PLEASE call the office at 786-2090 before **7:50** in the morning or email Stephanie Pearson at [pearson.stephanie@wsalem.k12.wi.us](mailto:pearson.stephanie@wsalem.k12.wi.us). In the event you receive the voice mail, 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 ill with strep throat, stomach flu, colds, and chicken pox, so it

is important that we have accurate count. We do not report student names, just numbers. If your child's absence is not called into the school in a timely manner, it is considered an unexcused absence and consequences may be assigned to the student.

You may also call ahead with any pre-planned absences. 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 in advance. 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.

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

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

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



**LUNCH MENU LINK - Click on the link below to view October's lunch menu:**

<https://wsalem.nutrislice.com/menu/west-salem-middle-school/lunch/2022-10-05>

**The Middle School Newsletters** can be found on the district website - [www.salem.k12.wi.us](http://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.

## ARE YOU READY FOR FLU SEASON?

As we head into winter and spend more time inside buildings, the flu season pays us a visit here in Wisconsin. The virus is transmitted by coughing, sneezing, contact with used tissues or contaminated hands and objects. The symptoms of influenza include:

- Fever with body temperature 100 degrees Fahrenheit or more
- Common respiratory problems such as cold and cough
- Congestion and runny nose
- Headache, accompanied by muscle pains
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Chills and fatigue



Prevention can be your best defense. Teach your child proper coughing and sneezing etiquette by using the inside of your elbow instead of your hand. Encourage proper disposal of tissues. Keep hands away from the face area. Frequent hand washing can also be helpful to decrease the spread of infection. Stay home when you are ill. Get plenty of rest and eat a balanced meal. Talk with your medical provider or health department and consider receiving the influenza vaccine to help prevent the influenza infection.

Stay well and carry on!

Laurie Nelson, RN  
West Salem School Nurse

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## PICTURE RE-TAKE DAY CHANGED FROM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4TH TO WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH!!



If your child is having retakes, you will need to return the original picture packet to the photographer on November 4. 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 West Salem School District prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the Pupil Services Director at (608) 786-0700. To file a complaint of discrimination write to: Pupil Services Director at 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI 54669 or call (608)786-0700. The West Salem School District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



*"Meet Us in the Middle"*





## 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.



## Early Release Dates

### Wednesdays

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

**October 12**

**February 8**

**May 10**

### Success Center

The Success Center is a resource room for students before and after school. Here, students can receive help from staff who attend WSMS classes and are equipped to walk students through information they may have missed or just do not understand. It is also the place where students can make up tests and quizzes. It is open from 7am until 7:45am and again from 3:10pm until 4pm. If students attend the Success Center, parents are responsible for transportation to and from school.

### Homework

Students should expect to have homework in math and reading on a regular basis. Math homework will be an extension of what is learned during class. Students will be given class time to work, but most will have to take the homework home to complete. In reading, students are expected to read an independent reading book nightly for a minimum of 20 minutes. Most other classes will have homework on an intermittent basis. You should not expect more than an hour of homework nightly. When absent, students should be getting the information missed off Google Classroom.



*"Meet Us in the Middle"*





## **Academic Updates**

**Reading:** Students will be working on specific skills and using different strategies to improve their reading ability. We encourage all students to read 20 minutes per day when not in class.

**Writing:** Students have finished going over the writing process and are publishing their first writing piece. Students will also be working on typing on the iPad and/or using a keyboard to help their writing efficiency. They will be starting Narratives this month.

**Social Studies:** Students are wrapping up their map skills unit which included global awareness. 5th grade concentrates on US history. One of the first units is learning about explorers heading over to the New World.

**Word Work:** Students have started their spelling program. This includes sorting and spelling words. They are always assigned one choice board assignment each week. At the end of their 6-day cycle, students will take spelling tests. This will continue all school year.

**iPads:** Students are starting to get more assignments on their iPad. They will continue to leave them at school unless they have homework to complete. Some students continue to struggle with using their iPads appropriately. This is something that can be reinforced at home when their devices are there.

**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.

**Homework Hotline:** This tool is available on the school website. If you go under schools and click on the Middle School, then click on Academics 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 you child is sick or leaves school early.

**Science:** Students are starting their matter unit. They will cover concepts from atoms to the states of matter. They will get to do a lot of experiments using the science process as well.

### **Upcoming Dates:**

- October 12th: Early Release**
- October 13th: Parent Teacher Conferences**
- October 17th: Parent Teacher Conferences**
- October 21st: No School**
- October 28th: No School (Teacher Inservice)**



*“Meet Us in the Middle”*





## 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 worked to improve our geographic skills. Map patterns 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 (e.g., age, sex, ethnicity, race) in the community & country.

**Human Environment Interaction-** Analyze how technology interacts with the environment and how increased use of technology affects the burden/use of natural resources.

## Math - Mrs Alo and Mrs. Jehn

Students completed Chapters 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.

## Accelerated Math - Mrs. Jehn

Students completed Chapters 1 and 2 in September. Chapter 1 covered topics such as powers and exponents, order of operations, greatest common factor, least common multiple. In Chapter 2 students learned how to multiply and divide fractions and mixed numbers as well as add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals efficiently.

October begins in Chapter 3 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!

## Science - Mrs. Jarosh

Students have been working hard to freshen up their scientific skills. They have practiced measuring mass, temperature, density, and three ways of measuring volume. We have also been working on the importance and value of working with others. Science labs provide so many learning opportunities.

In October, we will focus on the parts of the Scientific Method also called Science and Engineering Practices. Asking Questions and Defining Problems is the first step. Students will explore this first hand by asking questions to define a testable problem to set up and perform an "Alka Seltzer Lab".

## 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.







## 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 started 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, check emails once a week, and to look over Google Classroom information posted by all 6th grade teachers.

Happy Reading!  
Mrs. Schultz





6th Grade Beginner Choir & Band Concert

Tuesday, October 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Marie W. Heider Center for the Arts

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





## Reading - Mrs. Rochester and Ms. Friell

Classroom Supplies: All students are required to have a binder and a three subject notebook (provided by the school. The binder and notebook are left in the classroom so they are never lost and remain easily accessible.

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. Students have been reviewing and learning strategies to write paragraphs and summaries.

Reading: In addition to a daily read aloud, students have been reading their self-selected books daily. During the month of October the 7th graders will read 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

We just finished up our first unit on adding and subtracting integers and rational numbers and took our test. You should have gotten a letter explaining the new grading system. Our second chapter continues to work on integers and rational numbers, however we will be multiplying and dividing with this unit.

## Pre-Algebra - Mrs. Weber

We finished our first unit on solving equations and took the test. You should have gotten a letter explaining the new grading system. Some kids have already taken advantage of the retakes and were able to improve their grade. We are now learning about inequalities, both writing and solving them. We also have been working hard on mathcounts which is a great way to challenge kids and learn new skills along the way!

## 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.

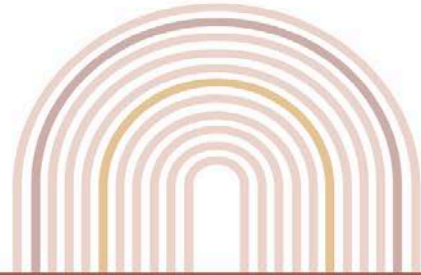
## Science - Mr. Baker

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



# GRADE 8

## newsletter



### OCTOBER EDITION

#### ELA- Mrs. Meyer & Ms. Sackett

We are off to a great start in 8th grade ELA, we have settled into our routine which includes both reading and writing each day. Our theme for the year is diversity; we are starting with personal identity. Students will continue to 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 essay toward the end of Trimester 1. We have also started *Linked* by Gordon Korman. The book tells the story of Link Rowley as he struggles to overcome challenges at school and figure out who he is.

#### SCIENCE- Ms. Smith- Waller

The first month of school has already passed us by, how is that possible?!? 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.
  - 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 us to our study of the American Revolution and its causes and effects. We will delve deeper into not just the battles but the human story of those living during the time period. We explore how this era produced many of the founding documents that still govern our democracy today.

**Interested in doing a little exploring on your own? Check out these virtual field trips and websites:**

[American Revolution Museum in Philadelphia](#)  
[Virtual Freedom Trail Tour in Boston](#)  
[The Constitutional Walking Tour \(Philadelphia\)](#)

Our learning targets for this unit include:

### Road to Revolution

**As evidenced based on classroom assessments, the student is able to:**

- 8.PS.1: Evaluate primary and secondary sources to understand different viewpoints of an event
- 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: Analyze 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

### American Revolution

**As evidenced based on classroom assessments, the student is able to:**

- 8.PS.1: Analyze primary and secondary sources to understand different viewpoints of an event
- 8.AR.1: Compare and contrast the American and British advantages and disadvantages during the war
- 8.AR.2: Analyze the role of important individuals and events leading to the end result of the American Revolution

## MATH 8- Mrs. Coe & Mrs. Snook

We began Chapter 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:

- 1.2: 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:

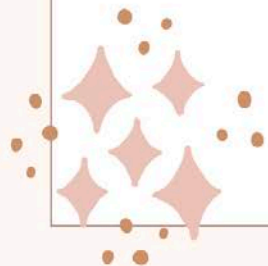
- 3.1: Understand the concept of a function
- 3.2: Describe characteristics of functions
- 3.3: Identify and graph linear functions
- 3.4: Understand and use function notation
- 3.5: Graph and interpret linear equations written in standard form
- 3.6: Find the slope of a line and use slope-intercept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

### Reminders

- Charge your iPad every night
- Check Google Classroom when you are absent.
- Check Homework Hotline to see what is coming up or due.
- Target-based grading is NEW if you have questions reach out to Mr. Wopat or your student's teacher.

### Important Dates

- October 4 -Picture Retake
- October 12- Early Release
- October 13- Parent Teacher Conferences
- October 17- Parent Teacher Conferences
- October 21- NO SCHOOL
- October 28- NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice








The first unit in 7th and 8th Grade Technology Education is the introduction to measuring, cutting, and building structures from our measurements. Students have been designing houses the past couple of weeks while creating to-scale blueprints. In the next couple of weeks, students will be building their houses out of cardboard. We will then learn simple circuitry and light switch by recycling old holiday lights design.



### Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"	Student "B"	Student "C"
reads <b>20 minutes</b> each day	reads <b>5 minutes</b> each day	reads <b>1 minute</b> each day
3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year
<b>1,800,000 words</b>	<b>282,000 words</b>	<b>8,000 words</b>
		
90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	50 <sup>th</sup> percentile	10 <sup>th</sup> percentile

By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

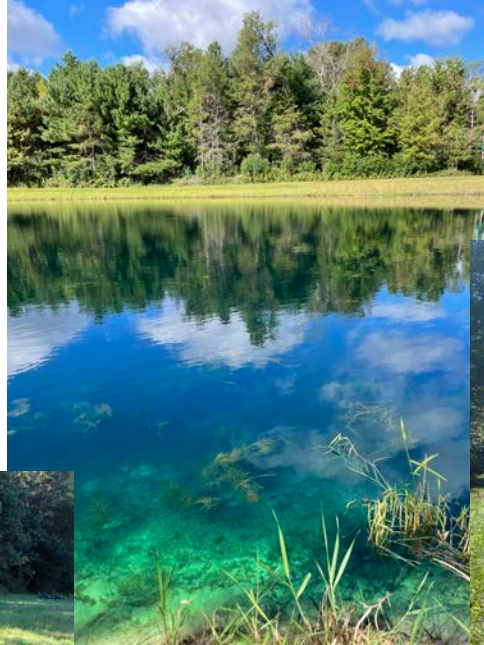
(Nagy & Herman, 1987)





# Healthy Living...

Healthy Living had a great time at the school forest with the eighth graders! Students were able to hike, cycle, work on teamwork skills, and enjoy the outdoors! It was a great couple days! We're looking forward to the days we have left to spend time outside before the snowflakes fall.



*"Meet Us in the Middle"*



## 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.



*"Meet Us in the Middle"*





## **Spanish - Ms. Kirchner**

### **6th grade**

**In 6th grade we are going to learn about the verb to be, how to describe themselves and others, and we will also talk about El Día de los Muertos, a fantastic Mexican tradition that is celebrated instead of Halloween. They will have the chance to make some sugar skulls! Lots of fun!**

### **7th grade**

**In 7th grade we are finishing up the weather project with our Spanish collaborators. We are really excited about how everything is turning out. We are also starting a new unit, how to describe people. They will be able to play guess who with their classmates!**

### **8th grade**

**In 8th grade we are learning about verbs and adjectives, that way we will be able to produce some Spanish and be able to express our ideas!**

### **Spanish 1**

**We have been in contact with some students back in Barcelona, Spain. We are sending letters back and forth and learning about the importance of knowing a new language.**