

WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Volume 7
Issue 2



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Dear WSMS Families,

The 2019-2020 school year is off to a great start at West Salem Middle School. Staff members have been hard at work preparing and planning for the start of school and the arrival of our students. We are looking forward to working together as a team to provide your child the very best educational experience. The *Panther Post* is one way in which we maintain communication between school and home. It contains a variety of academic updates, important dates, and items of interest. Thank you for taking the time to read it.

WSMS is committed to ensuring a positive learning environment for all. This commitment comes with a focus on learning, consistent attendance, and adherence to the school rules. Consistency in these three areas will allow our students the opportunity to develop the positive habits that will make them successful young adults. While we recognize that students in middle school should be able to be in charge of their own success, parents/guardians can have a great impact in setting the stage. How? Here are a few ideas:

Learning

- Let your child know you think school is important. Talk to him/her about what they're learning.
- Encourage persistence: Children learn persistence when they are successful at a challenging task. Let them know that not everything comes easy. This will help them gain confidence and successfully negotiate difficult situations when they are older.
- Talk to them about their future: School success is one of the keys to a happy and fulfilling future. Talk with them about their dreams/goals and make the connection to how school fits within this vision.

Attendance

- Encourage your child to get enough sleep to ensure that he/she is able to get up in the morning.
- Leave home with plenty of time to get to school.
- Try to schedule appointments before or after school hours.

School Rules

- Familiarize yourself with the school rules, guidelines, and expectations in our handbook.
- Reinforce that school is currently their "job" and just like your job, there are expectations. This will help them prepare for high school and beyond.
- Talk to your kids about the rules at your job. Compare them. For example, what is the dress code at your job? This helps students understand the purpose of school rules.

Finally, encourage your child to develop a great work ethic. Vince Lombardi was quoted as saying, "The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary." A good work ethic will help develop personal pride and ensure that your student feels in control. Hard work pays off!

I feel blessed to be a part of such a strong learning community here in West Salem. We look forward to partnering with you to continue *Serving With Passion to Ignite Creativity, Innovation, and Excellence* in all of our students. Let's have a great year!

Proud to be a Panther!

Ben Wopat
Principal
Twitter.com/coachwopat

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

School Starts at 7:50!!

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Picture re-take day.....
Tuesday, Oct. 8

Morning Procedures

Students who report to school prior to 7:43 may report to the commons or recess area.

Students may report to the Success Center at 7:00 a.m. Students should buzz in and report directly to the Success Center classroom. Doors open for students to have breakfast or report to commons at 7:00.

Students are not to be in the halls before 7:43 unless they have a pass from a teacher.

First period starts at 7:50 a.m. and all students will be expected to be in their appropriate classrooms at that time.

Middle School Security...

The middle school doors will be locked during 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). Once you enter the building, please sign in in the office.



Calendar of Events

- 3 - 1st Day!! 7:50am
- 12 - VB @ Longfellow 4:00pm
- 16 - CC @ Pettibone Park 4:30pm
VB vs Winona 4:00pm
- 17 - FB 7 vs Holmen -Scrimmage 4:00pm
- 19 - FB 8 vs Logan - Scrimmage 4:00pm
VB @ Sparta 4:00pm
- 24 - CC @ Maple Grove Grade Level 4:30pm
FB 7 @ Logan Middle 4:00pm
FB8 @ Holmen 2 4:00pm
VB vs Lincoln
- 25 - Gr 5 to OEC (1/2 grade)
- 26 - Gr. 5 to OEC (1/2 grade)
Torch Light Parade
- 27 - Homecoming Parade 2pm
- 30 - VB @ Westby 4:15pm



From the Office

Absences, appointments, and messages

If your child will be absent from school, please call the office by **7:50** in the morning or you can call or send a note in advance. 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 in to 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 or send a note with any pre-planned absences, and we will document it. Therefore 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 ahead of time 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 child at the last minute when he/she is being picked up. If your child brings a note from the medical or dental appointment as verification, 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.

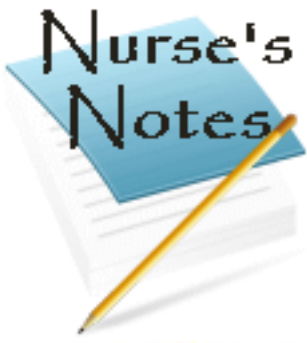
We receive many calls daily from parents asking us to relay messages to their children. Please make every attempt to relay these messages to your child before he or she leaves for school.

Messages called into the office after 1:30 may not get to your child before dismissal.



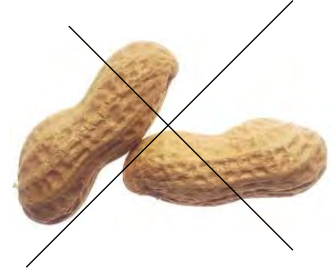
"Meet Us in the Middle"





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



Student Drop Off and Pick Up

On page 17 you will see a picture of our front loop for the morning traffic flow drop off.

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 St. to have students get out is NOT safe.** Mark St. 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 in to the lot.



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



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 2

November 6

December 4

February 5

March 4

May 13



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.

Counselor Comments from Mr. Lang...

WELCOME to all students new to the West Salem Middle School!!!

WELCOME BACK to all of our returning students!!!

We have had one full school year under our belts in the new building! We should know where we are going and what to expect, then, right? Of course, there are going to be changes and updates as we continue to improve our "system" and interactions. If you are not sure "where to go" or "how to get there," please reach out and ask. Our students and staff are more than willing to help. This goes for everyone in the building...new and returning students as well as new and returning staff. Let's have a great year together!!!

We have used the SEARCH Institute's 40 Developmental Assets for the past several years as the foundation for our Homeroom lessons. This year, we will be using the Character Strong program as our guiding foundation. As we kick off the new school year, our initial focus will be on Bonding/Connecting/Getting to Know each other in Homerooms (of course, this will be a year-long process!).

5th grade will remain in their grade-level homerooms while 6th, 7th, and 8th grades will be in mixed-level homerooms. These students will remain with that same advisor/homeroom teacher for those three years. We are looking forward to a fun-filled, educational year. There will be so much going on that it may feel overwhelming at times for students and parents. Please be patient as the year unfolds and new endeavors occur. Certainly, reach out and ask questions if you are not certain about something your child is involved with at the middle school. We want this to be a positive experience for you and your child(ren).

Substitutes Needed

For the 2019-2020 School Year
In the following areas:

Secretarial	Paraprofessionals
Food Service	Custodians
Bus Drivers	Teachers

If interested, please stop at the District Office at
405 East Hamlin St, West Salem OR call
608-786-0700 OR go to www.wsalem.k12.wi.us
for a substitute application.



"Meet Us in the Middle"



5th Grade Update:

We are so excited for you to be the second group to “Meet Us in the Middle” at our new school. It was great to see so many of you at open house. We know there are going to be a lot of new and exciting experiences for us all, but we wanted to give you a few important reminders.

With a new building comes new expectations for 5th graders. Students are responsible for dressing appropriately for the weather. We want students to stay healthy and be at school because it is the best thing for their learning. If they do miss school, then they are also responsible for catching up after any absences. In 5th grade, we use Google Classroom and the Homework Hotline to help keep students up to date on assignments. They can utilize the Success Center to help them catch up or complete assignments. This is a new resource for 5th grade, and we are very excited to offer this to our students. The Success Center is open before and after school to allow students to finish assignments or make up tests and quizzes. The staff is equipped to assist students with things they may have missed or do not understand. It is open from 7:00am-7:45am and 3:10pm-4:00pm. The students will also have three different CORE teachers. CORE classes include: Math, Reading, Writing, and Science/Social Studies. Their homeroom teacher will teach them two CORE classes, and then they will rotate to two different teachers for their other two CORE classes.

As a 5th grade team, we decided that iPads will not be sent home every night. Instead, iPads will only come home when students have an assignment or activity that they need to complete that night. We want to ensure that students understand that the iPads are tools to help them be successful in school, so we feel that this is a fair way to help them understand that responsibility. As the year progresses, we might start to allow them to go home on a more regular basis.

We understand that there will be some new challenges for our students, but we are here to help that transition go as smoothly as possible. With the help of WEB leaders and the rest of the Middle School staff, we can help all of our students feel comfortable and excited for this new adventure!

Let’s have a FANTASTIC year!

The 5th Grade Team

- Martha Burdick
- Mary Czajka
- Katie Fink
- Kamry Kjos
- Teri Lassig
- Ethan Ringlien



Upcoming Dates:

- September 3rd-First Day of School
- September 23rd-27th-Homecoming week
- September 25th-School Forest (Ring, Cz, Kj)
- September 26th-School Forest (Bur, La, Fin)



“Meet Us in the Middle”



Music 5 - Trimester I - Mrs. Glasel (Kjos) and Ms. Nimm (Burdick)

Welcome to Middle School. Your music class will take on a little different format by having music every day for a trimester. Let's meet your teachers.

Hi, I am Mrs. Glasel, and I'm starting my 30th year of teaching, all here at West Salem. Last year was my first year back to teaching 5th grade music. I taught 5th grade for my first 16 years of teaching before moving completely to the middle school to teach middle school general music and band lessons.



Hi, I am Ms. Nimm, and I'm starting my 14th year of teaching, all here at West Salem, just like Mrs. Glasel! This is my first year teaching 5th grade music and I'm very excited to get started. I also teach Choir (6, 7, 8), Soundscapes (7), and African Drumming (8).

Our classes will be based around the four main concepts of performing, creating, responding and connecting, so you can bet that they will be doing a lot of moving, singing, and activities. We will start off each class with a song, mostly from the Get American Singing...Again! books which are songs that should be common repertoire in our American culture. Then after doing a rhythm or pitch activity, we will focus on a topic or song that reflects history and culture, folk music, and holidays. We will end with a listening or movement activity.



General Music 6 - Mrs. Glasel

This month will focus on getting to know the 6th grade students and making them feel comfortable with middle school. They will learn some basic music skills (pitch reading and rhythms) to get started at learning the piano keyboard, while also doing music appreciation activities to learn about their musical tastes and interests. We also read articles from a music magazine called Music Alive. Articles this month will focus on marching bands and the polka.

General Music 7 - Mrs. Glasel

Welcome to 7th grade music. The students will begin to learn/review basic music reading and as well as applying those skills to playing the guitar. We will begin to learn some simple songs on the first string. Also, they will learn about what is a musical and some terminology related to musicals.



From the 6th Grade Team...

Welcome to 6th Grade!

Thank you for the great turnout at WSMS Open House. For those of you who couldn't make it or those of you who were overwhelmed, we wanted to remind you of a few things.

Personal responsibility is very important in middle school. Included in that is attendance, which is critical with block scheduling since we only see students every other day. However, please have your child stay home if he/she is truly sick. If your child is absent, there are several ways to get caught up. Students should go speak with their teachers about what they missed, but they should also check Google Classroom and Homework Hotline, call or email friends, and utilize the Success Center to receive support in homework completion and understanding.

Google Classroom is an educational app we use to inform students of homework, assessments, classroom activities, etc. Students are also able to view information from classes they may have missed and will need to make up. The Success Center is a resource room for students before and after school to receive help from staff who attend various classes in the building and are equipped to walk students through information they may have missed or just do not understand. It is also where students make up tests and quizzes. It is open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:45 a.m. and again from 3:10 until 4:00 p.m. If students attend the Success Center, parents are responsible for transportation to and from school.

Speaking of homework, students should expect to have homework in math and reading on a nightly 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. Please encourage your child to complete homework the same night it is assigned so they are able to recall what they learned more readily.

During the first few weeks of school, the 6th grade team will be working with your student to make this transition run as smoothly as possible. Your child is in good hands!

We are looking forward to a great year!

The 6th Grade Team
Kari Schultz - Reading
Becky Buisman - English
Heather Jehn - Math
Chelsea Adams - Math
Alyssa Jarosh - Science
Sara Jeranek - Social Studies
Amy Marshall - Resource
Justin Running - Resource
Colleen Betita - Resource



“Meet Us in the Middle”





General Music ~ Mrs. Glasel

General Music 6 “Keyboards and More” - Mrs. Glasel

This month will focus on getting to know the 6th grade students and making them feel comfortable with middle school. They will learn some basic music skills (pitch reading and rhythms) to get started at learning the piano keyboard, while also doing music appreciation activities to learn about their musical tastes and interests. We also read articles from a music magazine called Music Alive. Articles this month will focus on marching bands and the polka.

General Music 7 - Mrs. Glasel

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The WSMS Marching Panthers

Our 180 members of the 7th and 8th grade Marching Band & Color Guard will be performing three times in the month of September.

Friday, September 13 - Report in Uniform at 5:30pm

“**BAND NIGHT**” - rehearsal before the Varsity FB game and performance at HALFTIME - parents, please have a plan for meeting your child after halftime.

Thursday, September 26 - Report in Uniform at 5:30pm

“**TORCH LIGHT PARADE**” - in North Side La Crosse - return time TBA

Friday, September 27 - During School at 2pm - Wear school spirit colors!

“**HOMECOMING PARADE**” - Leonard Street, West Salem



Meet Us in the Middle



September Thoughts from the 7th Grade Teachers:

WELCOME TO 7TH GRADE! WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU HERE!

Mr. Mahlum- social studies
 Mrs. Rochester- reading
 Mrs. Weber- math
 Mrs. Coe- math
 Mr. Baker- science
 Mrs. Martinson- ELA
 Mr. Jones- STEM
 Mrs. Housker- special education



Attendance- Please be in school when you are feeling well. We want students to be in our classes!



We only get to see you every other day! A lot of what we do in class cannot be made up.

Google Classroom- We are continuing to use Google Classroom this year. Teachers post to Google Classroom daily. The posts include the daily plan and handouts students need. When you are absent, it is your responsibility to check it and talk with the teacher about make up work.



Skyward- Homeroom teachers check grades on Skyward weekly. Students and parents can check Skyward, too. Teachers usually enter grades weekly. Please be patient with teachers to get grades entered after a test or project.



Please, please, please keep your iPad charged! Plug it in every night.



Homework- Students will usually have time to start homework during class. However, there will be times when the students need to finish work at home. Please have a reliable method for you to keep track of your homework- it could be an assignment notebook, planner, or some other way to keep track of homework.



Grade 8 news...

Math - Mrs. Bentzen and Mrs. Coe

Regular Math (Chapter 1)

This will be our sixth year in our textbook series called "Big Ideas Math." This series exposes students to highly motivating and relevant problems. Woven throughout the series are the depth and rigor students need to prepare for career-readiness and other college-level courses. In addition, the "Big Ideas Math" series prepares students to meet the challenge of state testing.

The objectives for Chapter 1:

- *solve simple equations using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division
- *use inverse operations to solve multi-step equations
- *use Distributive Property to solve multi-step equations
- *solve equations with variables on both sides
- *determine whether equations have no solution or infinitely many solutions
- *rewrite equations to solve for one variable in terms of the other variable(s)

Algebra (Quick Review Chapters 1 and 2, Chapter 3)

We will be practicing some basic skills of algebra while learning about the real number system. We will solve linear equations. We will start Mathcounts early in the month. Students will be required to complete a problem solving worksheet every week.

The objectives for Chapter 1:

- *write and evaluate expressions, equations and inequalities
- *apply the order of operations to solve real world problems
- *represent functions as rules and as tables
- *graph functions given a rule or table of values

The objectives for Chapter 2:

- *classify real numbers/compare and order integers and rational numbers
- *perform basic operations and find square roots
- *apply properties to evaluate and simplify expressions
- *use the Distributive Property to write equivalent expressions

*use conditional statements and logical reasoning to reason with real numbers

The objectives of Chapter 3:

- *use properties of equality to solve one-step, two-step and multi-step equations in one variable
- *use properties of equality and the distributive property to solve equations with variables on both sides
- *write ratios and proportions, solve proportions using cross products
- *solve percent problems, such as finding the percent of a number, a base, and part of a base
- *rewrite equations in function form
- *solve formulas and literal equations for one variable

English - Mrs. Sackett and Mr. Tashner

In 8th grade English, we are beginning the year by getting to know each other and establishing our classroom routine. We begin each class with a journal write and then move on to lessons developing writing skills. The first writing focus of the year will be various paragraph types. In addition, this fall, in Reading and English classes, we are going to be participating in a global read aloud. A book was selected for this read aloud, and we will join classrooms around the world in reading this book and making global connections. We will also start the year reviewing some of the grammatical principles learned in 7th grade; for example, we will review parts of speech and compound sentences. We are excited to work with this group of 8th graders and look forward to a great year!

Science - Mrs. Smith-Waller

Welcome back everyone! I am so excited to be starting another new year at West Salem Middle School. I hope you enjoyed the summer break and are eager for a fun-filled year in 8th grade science. I am excited to teach you all about the Earth! Before we dig into learning about many aspects of our amazing planet Earth, we will briefly refresh our memories on how to become better scientists. To do this, we will take a look at some Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs) to help us in the process of thinking like a scientist. Then we will begin our Astronomy unit with a focus on the Earth-sun-moon system. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns, and once again, welcome!

Essential Learning Outcomes:

- Developing and Using Models: developing, using, and revising models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems.
- Develop and use a model of the Earth-sun-moon system to describe the cyclic patterns of lunar phases, eclipses of the sun and moon, and seasons.



"Meet Us in the Middle"



Reading - Miss Friell

Supplies: To be prepared for class, students must bring the following to class every day: pen/pencil, iPad, book of choice (fiction or non-fiction), and a Reading binder. The students' Reading binders will stay in the classroom, so they only have to get it off the shelf at the beginning of class!

Independent Reading: In the first two weeks of school students will go to the library and check out books of their choice. They should be reading these books at home on a daily basis (a minimum of 20 minutes). They are also given 20 minutes to read their choice books during every Reading class. Please ask your son/daughter to tell you about what he/ she is reading.

Vocabulary: In addition to "A Word A Day" (from the book *100 Words Every Middle Schooler Should Know*), we will work on vocabulary in the following ways: studying Greek and Latin roots, working with new words in the fiction and non-fiction works we read as a class (often coordinating with other 8th grade curricular areas), and by keeping an independent vocabulary list.

Right away in the beginning of September, 8th graders will participate in the Global Read Aloud, a project created in 2010. The goal of the project is to have students around the world read a book that is relevant to all of us. During the reading, students are able to connect with other students around the world. This year's Global Read Aloud is *The Bridge Home* by Padma Venkatraman. Students will be required to apply their knowledge of literary elements. And, as the book is set in India, 8th graders will read informational text about India.

Social Studies - Miss Morgan

Eighth grade Social Studies explores the history of our nation from the events that led to the American Revolution through the Civil War which nearly tore the country apart. Throughout the year, students will work to develop the skills that historians use each and every day-- analysis, research, critical thinking, and so much more.

Students will once again be research and developing a National History Day project which will focus on this year's theme "Breaking barriers in History". Students may choose a historical topic of their choice as long as it occurred 25 years or more ago and it fits with the theme. Upon completion of their research, students will present their findings in the form of one of the following: exhibit, website, documentary, historical paper, or performance. The best projects from WSMS will participate in the regional competition at UW-La Crosse in mid-March.

Watch for information on the DC trip late September to early October. If you are planning ahead, this year's trip will be May 31-June 5th. We will also be in need of parent chaperones for this trip. Parents wishing to participate should return the permission form which will be sent home ASAP. Prices are still be negotiated, but we hope to have more information shortly.

Following their learning in September, students will be able to:

- Explain pop culture and historical events that occurred within their lifetimes
- Describe important facts (who, what, when, where, why) of current events
- Develop an argument about why the American Revolution was justified



"Meet Us in the Middle"



Spanish - Mrs. Phillips

6th Grade

Hola, ¿Cómo estás? Sixth grade is working on basic conversations and pronunciation. During the month of September we will continue to practice conversations and add in vocabulary including numbers, weather expressions, days of the week and months. Hispanic Heritage month begins September 15!

7th Grade

In seventh grade Spanish we are starting off by practicing conversational skills. Students will add more details to basic conversations and ask each other questions. We will also discuss the weather in Spanish speaking countries. ¿Qué tiempo hace?

8th Grade and 8th Grade Elective

In eighth grade Spanish we will work on using the classroom phrases regularly. We will also continue developing conversational skills by speaking to each other in Spanish. Our cultural focus will be Hispanic Heritage month which begins September 15.



Art - Mrs. Hemker

Grade 5

Welcome to MS grade 5 families! This month 5th graders will be working on a variety of portraits. A painting of an animal that represents them is the first focus. Also this month, portraits will turn to a more realistic style where we will look at facial features and proportions.

Grade 6

As we begin the Trimester, 6th grade will be working on two main projects. The first is a self portrait. These will be large material samplers, realistic in style and include backgrounds that describe the artist. The other painting will be abstract. For this work students will discuss the elements and principles of art for creating a quality piece.

Grade 7

7th graders will spend the month of September experimenting with drawing from different points of view. One of the projects will require students to recreate and alter an already existing work of art. Another project will be the complete opposite, where students will create the entire drawing from scratch by observing an inanimate object. We will also be working on observational drawings of shoes.

Grade 8

Students in 8th grade will be working on projects that represent themselves this trimester. Our first project will be a design that will be considered for this year's class t-shirt. The next will be a Poster featuring a quote that describes them. The poster will include a hand written font. 8th graders will also begin to design their wall block as a lasting way to represent themselves.

Healthy Living Team ~ Mr. Brewer, Mrs. Olson, and Ms. Becker/Mrs. Dellenbach

Welcome back!! We are excited for a new year! The Healthy Living Staff cannot wait to get your children moving again. We are welcoming Miss Becker and Mrs. Dellenbach to our staff this year. We will be focusing on the [SHAPE National Standards](#) throughout the year for our curriculum. Miss Serres will be student teaching with us this Fall. 7th and 8th grade students will need to bring athletic clothing (NO JEANS) and all students, 5th-8th, must have athletic shoes (no sandals, boots, slip ons, or Crocs). Thank you!



Daily Physical Activity!
It can happen!

Looking ahead to TESTING dates!!!

We will be doing WI Forward Testing next Spring.

Gr. 5 - March 23 - 26

Gr. 6 - April 6 - 9

Gr. 7 - April 14 - 17

Gr. 8 - April 20 - 24

*please refrain from absences during testing days if at all possible

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.

Important 8th grade dates:

Candle Fundraiser (for end of year trips) - Mid November

Puffin Pastry Fundraiser (for end of year trips) - February/March

Career Day in La Crosse - January

Civil Way Day - May

Promotion - May 28

Washington DC trip - May 31 - June 5

Student Council -

Want to be a positive role model for West Salem Middle School? Want to make fun videos and plan team building activities for the whole school? Then you should sign up for student council!

Student council will be starting up right away this school year. We have many activities to plan in the community and throughout the school year to make it an exciting year. We will plan activities for homecoming, fundraisers to raise money for the school, and many more activities.

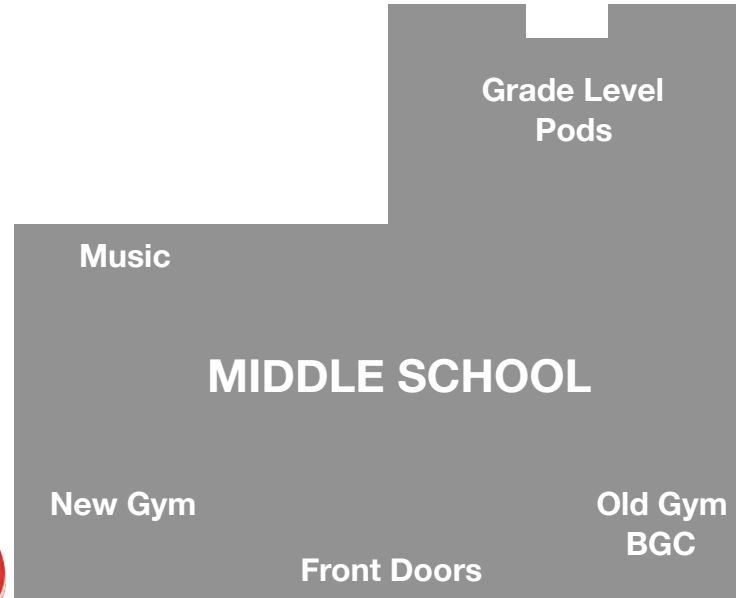
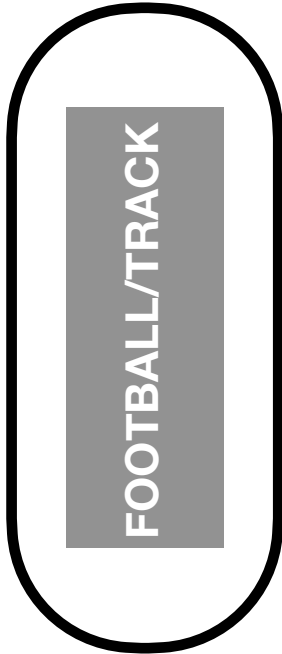
This year, student council meetings will be on Monday mornings from 7:15-7:40am.

Applications are in the office and in Mr. Tashner's room. More information will be made during morning announcements.

If you have any questions feel free to email Mr. Tashner at tashner.benjamin@wsalem.k12.wi.us or Mrs. Burdick at brudick.martha@wsalem.k12.wi.us or call the school.



WSMS STUDENT DROP-OFF



MARK STREET

STAFF PARKING

EAST AVENUE

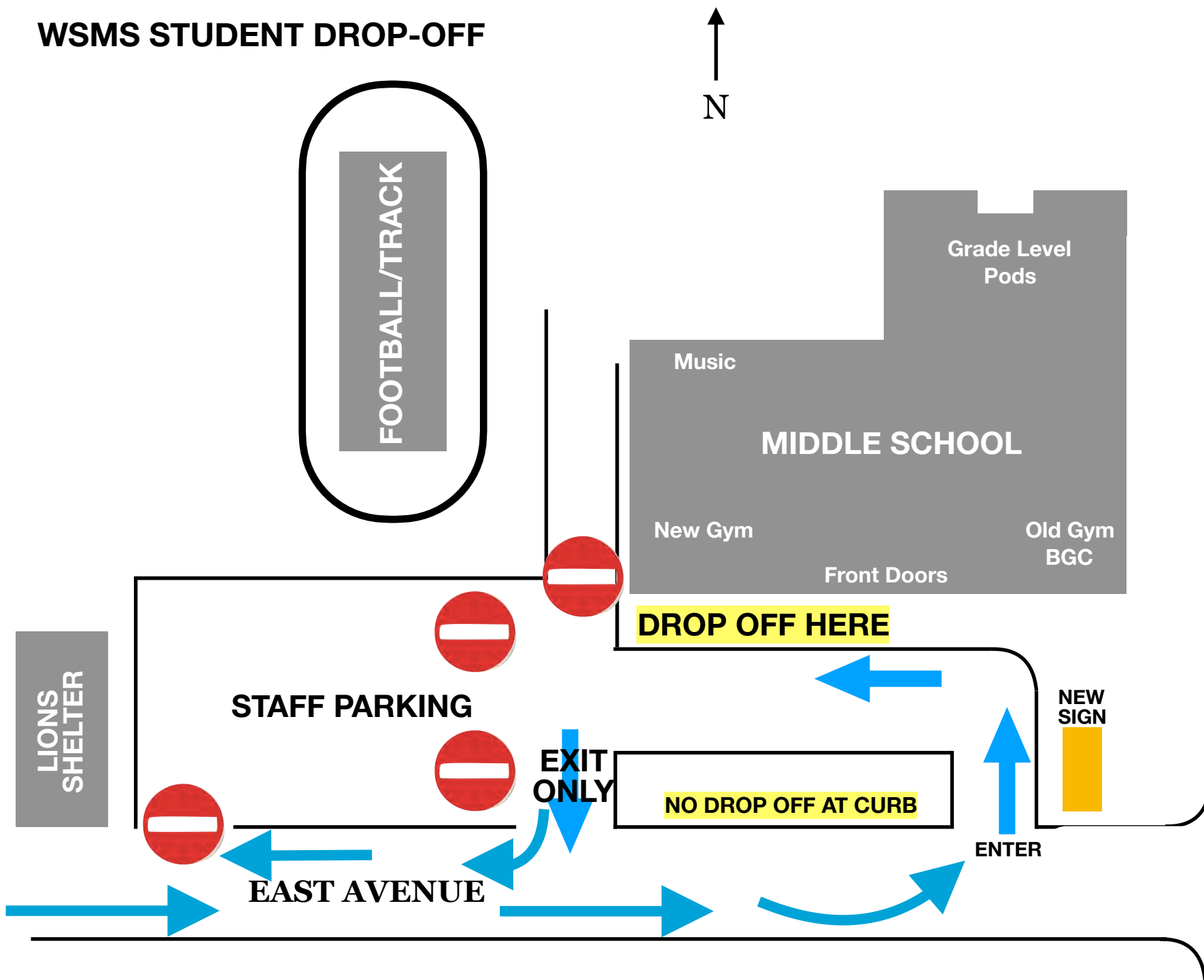
DROP OFF HERE

NO DROP OFF AT CURB

NEW SIGN

ENTER

EXIT ONLY



Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

Take good risks

Encourage your tween to try an activity that appeals to her, even if she's a little nervous. Maybe she wants to join the cross-country team but hasn't run longer distances. Or perhaps she's interested in the improv club but is hesitant about public speaking. Stepping out of her comfort zone will stretch her abilities and build confidence.

Agree to disagree

If your usually agreeable child starts poking holes in your opinions, that's a sign his reasoning skills are developing. Try not to take it personally, and ask him to share his views respectfully. He'll learn that it's okay to disagree, as long as he's polite about it.

Puzzle me this

Crossword puzzles boost your tween's vocabulary. Have her print free puzzles she finds online or get crossword books from a dollar store. Or she and her friends could make crosswords for each other on graph paper or with a website like puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com.

Worth quoting

"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." *Walt Disney*

Just for fun

Q: Why did the bird build a nest on the car?

A: She knew they would be moving soon!



A good attitude = more learning

Starting the year with a positive attitude about school goes a long way toward a student's success. Inspire your tween to develop a winning outlook with these strategies.

Look for positives

Your middle grader can find something interesting about every class. Suggest that he start a list of fun facts, one from each class every week. After a biology lesson on genetics, he might write, "I had a 50 percent chance of having blue eyes since Mom's are brown and Dad's are blue." Encourage him to share his discoveries with you.

Celebrate achievements

Tell your tween to congratulate himself on a job well done. Maybe he earned a higher score on this week's vocabulary quiz than he did on last week's. Or perhaps he picked a topic for his history paper, even though he was tempted to



put off getting started. Saying "I did it!" will make him feel good about himself and motivated to keep working hard.

Seek help

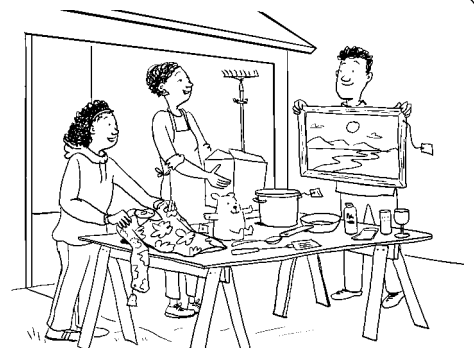
Successful students know how to get help when they face challenges. For example, your child could post a schedule of teachers' office hours or homework-help sessions in his locker. Then if he's struggling, he can sign up for a slot. Having a plan in place will help him stay upbeat. 👍

Fall family fun

Strong parent-tween relationships help kids resist risky behaviors and make family life more enjoyable. Try these ideas.

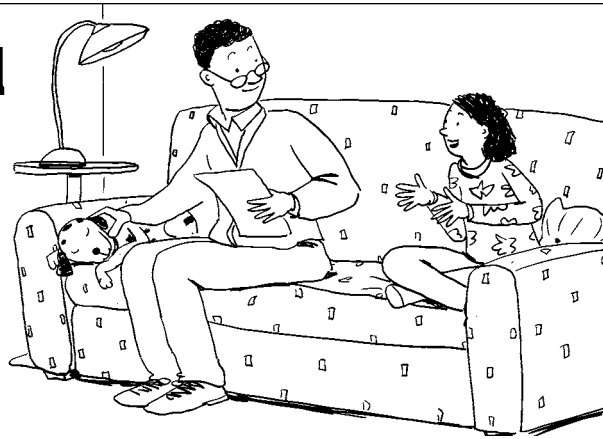
■ **Outings.** Ask your child to find outings that sound fun, such as a fall festival or a paint night. For ideas, she could look in the newspaper or check library and community center websites. *Tip:* Suggest that she ask classmates where their families like to go on weekends.

■ **Projects.** Let your middle grader plan family projects. Perhaps she'll suggest a garage sale. Work together to gather books, housewares, and toys you don't need anymore. She can help to advertise the sale, price items, and greet customers. 👍



Wanted: Involved parents

What does parent involvement look like in middle school? While you probably won't be volunteering in your child's classroom, she still wants your support (even if she doesn't act like she does). Consider these tips for being a partner in her education.



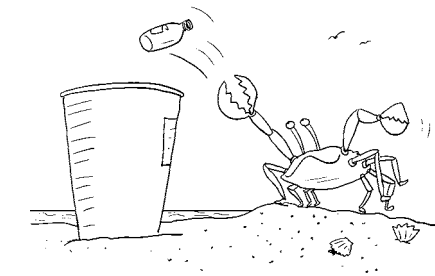
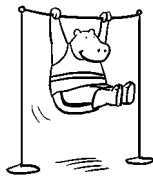
At school. Make it a priority to attend school events like curriculum nights and school plays. Also, look for ways to help that are related to your tween's activities. If she plays in the band, you could volunteer to set up for a concert. If she belongs to a book club, you might offer to shelve library books and talk to her afterward about

books you noticed. Or if she's an athlete, maybe you'll work at the concession stand during sporting events.

At home. Offer to quiz your middle grader on material she's studying or to look over a paper she's working on. To stay in the loop about what's happening in school, read the website regularly and sign up for email or text alerts. Mention the announcements to your child so she knows you're interested in her school. 👍

Q&A Getting started with community service

Q My son is required to complete community service hours this year, but he can't decide what to do. How can I help him?



A Doing community service will let your son help others and gain work experience. The main office or his school counselor may have a list of places where he can volunteer. He could also ask friends, relatives, and neighbors for ideas.

Then, suggest that he choose a job that matches his interests—he'll get more out of it that way. For example, he might participate in a beach cleanup if he's concerned about the environment. Or if he likes working with younger children, he may play games or read with little ones at a homeless shelter while their parents attend job training.

Finally, encourage him to keep track of his work, including names of supervisors, so he'll receive credit—and even have references for a job someday. 👍

Everyday engineering

From shoes and clothing to appliances and electronics, just about every product your tween uses was designed by engineers. Help him discover how engineering affects his daily life with this activity.



1. Encourage your child to consider the engineering involved in his favorite products. Maybe his running shoes absorb impact, the smoothie maker purees big chunks of fruit, or his jacket repels rain.

2. Now let him pick a product to redesign. He could decide to add another layer of foam to his shoes. First, he should run a block and rate his comfort on a scale of 1–10. Then, he can add foam, run another block, and rate his comfort again. What happens if he adds even more foam? How much might be too much? 👍

Parent to Parent The "elevator speech"

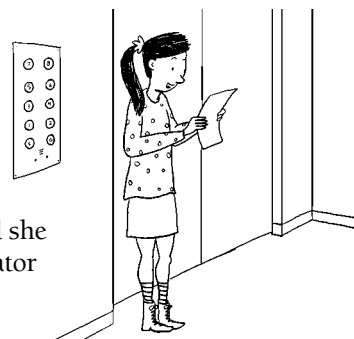
When I was looking for a job, I discovered an interesting technique for "selling" yourself in an interview: the "elevator speech." I shared the idea with my daughter Susan, thinking she could use it to write summaries or make points during class discussions.

I told Susan to pretend she was going to ride an elevator with me and summarize the novel she's reading in

30 seconds or less—about the time it would take to ride from the ground to the top floor of a building.

Susan jotted down what she wanted to say. At first, it took her almost 3 minutes to read it. But she kept trimming her summary until it was about 30 seconds long.

Then, she read it aloud to me. She got to the point quickly, and now she plans to try the strategy in class. 👍



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated
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WEST SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT 2019-2020 CALENDAR

AUGUST 2019				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

SEPTEMBER 2019					20
M	T	W	T	F	
NS	3	4	5	6	
9	10	11	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	27	
30					

OCTOBER 2019					21
M	T	W	T	F	
	1	ER	3	4	
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	NS	
21	22	23	24	NS*	
28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER 2019					18
M	T	W	T	F	
				1	
4	5	ER	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	NS	NS	NS	

DECEMBER 2019					15
M	T	W	T	F	
2	3	ER	5	6	
9	10	11	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	
NS	NS				

JANUARY 2020					21
M	T	W	T	F	
		NS	2	3	
6	7	8	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17	
NS*	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2020					19
M	T	W	T	F	
3	4	ER	6	7	
10	11	12	13	NS	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH 2020					20
M	T	W	T	F	
2	3	ER	5	6	
9	10	11	12	SD	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	NS*	
30	31				

APRIL 2020					20
M	T	W	T	F	
		1	2	3	
6	7	8	9	NS	
NS	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30		

MAY 2020					20
M	T	W	T	F	
				1	
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	ER	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
NS	26	27	28	29	

JUNE 2020					4
M	T	W	T	F	
1	2	3	4	SD	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	
29	30				

First Day of School: September 3, 2019
Last Day of School: June 4, 2020
Graduation Day: May 24, 2020
Early Release Days:
 October 2, November 6,
 December 4 February 5,
 March 4, May 13
October 21: Annual Meeting (tentative)

SERVE WITH PASSION TO IGNITE CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, AND EXCELLENCE

NS = No School for students

ER = Early Release (Students dismissed at 12:20, Buses leave at 12:30)

SD = Snow Day or Make-up dates (March 13, June 5)

*** = Teacher Inservice (August 27 & 28, October 25, January 20, March 27 + 2 Floating)**

11/27/17

September 2019

West Salem Middle School Lunch

MONDAY

2

Labor Day - No School

TUESDAY

3

Taco Tuesday!

From the Grill

- Pork Taco on Soft Shell Tortilla
- Refried Beans

Home Style

Chicken Taco on Soft Shell Tortilla

- Refried Beans

Deli

- Homemade Grilled Cheese
- Creamy Tomato Soup

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

WEDNESDAY

4

From the Grill

- Kick'n Chicken-Crispy Patty with Pepper Jack Cheese Whole Grain Bun
- Oven Baked French Fries

Home Style

- BBQ Teriyaki Chicken Seasoned Brown Rice
- Mixed Vegetables

Deli

- Southwest Chicken Salad
- Brown Chicken & Wild Rice Soup

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

THURSDAY

5

- Rice Krispie Treat Offered with meals in all lines

From the Grill

- Mini Corn Dogs
- Chex Mix - Cheddar
- Honey-Glazed Carrots

Home Style

- Pasta with Chicken Alfredo or Deli
- Pasta with Chicken Cajun Alfredo

- Garlic Breadstick

- Honey-Glazed Carrots

Deli

- Chicken Caesar Wrap
- Parmesan Peppercorn Pasta

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

FRIDAY

6

From the Grill

- Pepperoni Pizza - Slice
- Whole Kernel Sweet Corn

Home Style

- Cheese Pizza or
- Homemade Taco Pizza
- Whole Kernel Sweet Corn

Deli

- Garden Salad with Diced Chicken
- White Chicken Chili

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

9

From the Grill

- Bakalar's Hot Dog on WG Bun
- Side of Mac n' Cheese
- Green Peas

Home Style

- Creamy Mac N' Cheese or Bacon Mac! (new)
- Italian Breadsticks
- Green Peas

Deli

- Ham & Swiss on WG Croissant
- Black Bean Corn Salsa and Tostito Scoop Chips

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

10

Breakfast for Lunch!

From the Grill

- French Toast Sticks Jones
- Dairy Sausage Links Warm
- Cinnamon Apples

Home Style

- Colby Cheese Omelet Jones
- Dairy Sausage Links Warm
- Cinnamon Apples Honey Bun Goldfish

Deli

- Turkey BLT on WG Sub Roll
- Broccoli Cheese Soup

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

11

From the Grill

- Carolina Style Pulled Pork Sandwich
- Coleslaw
- Mashed Potatoes

Home Style

- Meatballs & Gravy with Buttermilk Biscuit
- Mashed Potatoes

Deli

- Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap
- Sliced Apples with Caramel Cup

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

12

From the Grill

- Popcorn Chicken
- Vegetable "Not Fried" Rice

Home Style

- Saucy Orange Popcorn Chicken
- Vegetable "Not Fried" Rice

Deli

- Turkey Sub
- Chicken Dumpling Soup

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

13

From the Grill

- Cheese Pizza - Personal Pan
- Hawaiian Pizza - Personal Pan
- Honey-Glazed Carrots

Home Style

- Pepperoni Pizza - Personal Pan

- Honey-Glazed Carrots

Deli

- Chef Salad w/Chicken & Cheese
- Cottage Cheese Cup

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

16

From the Grill

- Mozzarella Stuffed Breadstick with Marinara Dipping Cup
- Mixed Vegetables

Home Style

- Tater Tot Hot Dish
- Buttermilk Biscuit
- Mixed Vegetables

Deli

- Ham, Turkey and Cheddar Sub
- Steakhouse Potato Salad

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

17

Taco Tuesday!

From the Grill

- Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla
- Refried Beans

Home Style

- Walking Taco on Nacho Dorito Chips
- Refried Beans

Deli

- Homemade Grilled Cheese
- Creamy Tomato Soup

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

18

From the Grill

- "Chicken and Waffles!" Natural Chicken Tenders WG Waffle
- Tri Tators

Home Style

- "Chicken and Waffles!" Natural Chicken Tenders WG Waffle
- Tri Tators

Deli

- Chicken Caesar Wrap
- Bow Tie Pasta Salad

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

19

- 100% Fruit Juice Slushy Offered with meals in all lines

From the Grill

- Meatball Marinara Sub on Hoagie Roll
- Garlic Roasted Green Beans

Home Style

- Pasta with Italian Meat Sauce
- Pasta with Marinara Sauce
- WG Garlic Knots
- Garlic Roasted Green Beans

Deli

- Southwest Chicken Salad
- Brown Chicken & Wild Rice Soup

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

20

From the Grill

- Cheesy Garlic French Bread Pizza
- Whole Kernel Sweet Corn

Home Style

- Pepperoni Pizza Dippers
- Marinara Dipping Cup
- Whole Kernel Sweet Corn

Deli

- Crab Salad on Croissant
- Egg Salad on Croissant
- Fresh Fruit Deluxe Salad

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

23**From the Grill**

- Homemade Sloppy Joe on WG Bun
- Oven Baked French Fries

Home Style

- Mr. Rib Sandwich
- Oven Baked French Fries

Deli

- Ham and Swiss on Croissant
- Chicken Noodle Soup

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

24**Taco Tuesday!****From the Grill**

- Taco Truck Burritos (New!) in TWO VARIETIES! with Cilantro

Home Style

- (Low-Fat) Loaded Beef Nachos with Cilantro Lime Rice

- Taco Topping Bar

Deli

- Turkey BLT on Sub Roll
- Broccoli Cheese Soup

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

25**From the Grill**

- Chicken Nuggets with WG Dinner Roll
- Mashed Potatoes

Home Style

- Turkey Pot Roast in Gravy with WG Dinner Roll
- Mashed Potatoes

Deli

- Chef Salad w/Chicken & Cheese
- Creamy Chicken Pot Pie Soup

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

26**From the Grill**

- (Cheese) Hamburger on WG Bun
- Potato Stars

Home Style

- (Cheese) Hamburger on WG Bun
- Potato Stars

Deli

- Cuban Flatbread Sandwich
- Chicken Dumpling Soup

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

27**From the Grill**

- Stuffed Crust Pepperoni Pizza
- Peas & Carrots

Home Style

- Stuffed Crust Cheese Pizza
- Peas & Carrots

Deli

- Turkey Sub
- Vegetarian Minestrone

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

30**From the Grill**

- Chicken Patty - Hot and Spicy Whole Grain Bun
- Steamed Broccoli

Home Style

- Veggie Burger Spicy Black Bean (Morningstar, nut free)
- Steamed Broccoli

Deli

- Ham, Salami & Provolone Cheese Sub
- Beef and Vegetable Soup

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

More Details: wsalem.nutrislice.com/menu/west-salem-middle-school/lunch/
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