

WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL



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Dear WSMS Families,

It's been a great start to the 2022-2023 school year! 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

Twitter.com/coachwopat

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

School Starts at

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**Picture Re-Take Day
Tuesday, October 4**

**BE SAFE!
BRING A LOCK FOR
YOUR BIKE!**

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 7:15.

Students are not to be in the halls before 7:43

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 the office.



Calendar of Events

19 - VB @ Sparta Middle M-View 4:00

20 - CC @ HOME 4:15
FB 7 @WSEM vs Logan Middle 4:15

22 - VB @ Holmen 4:00
FB 8 @ HOME vs Logan MS 4:15

26 - VB @ HOME vs Tomah MS 4:15
CC @ Westby MS 4:30

27 - VB @ Westby MS 4:15
FB 7 @WSEM vs Holmen MS 4:00
FB 8 @ WSEM vs Holmen MS 4:15

21 - Gr 8 to OEC (1/2 grade)

22 - Gr 8 to OEC (1/2 grade)

27 - Gr 5 to OEC (1/2 grade)

28 - Gr 5 to OEC (1/2 grade)

30 - Homecoming Parade 2:15



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 voicemail, 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 the number 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.

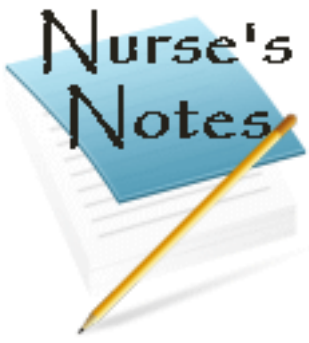
You may also call ahead or send a note with any pre-planned absences, and we will document it. Therefore you will not have to call again the day of the absence.

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



"Meet Us in the Middle"

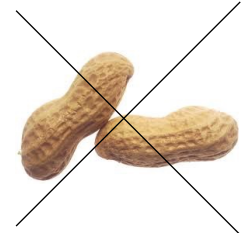
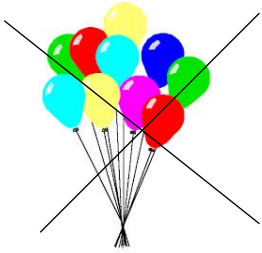




DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A NUT OR LATEX ALLERGY?

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

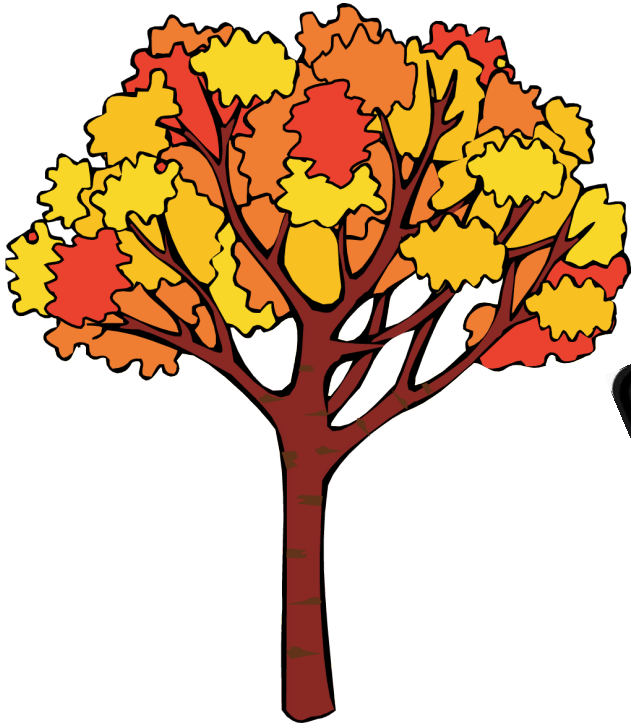
Buses will drop off students at the high school sidewalk then they will use the new sidewalk by the track/football field to walk to the middle school.

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.wsaalem.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 12

February 8

May 10



Counseling Corner

Homerooms continue to use the Character Strong program. All of the lessons and activities are about building, enhancing, and becoming more aware of 'good character' and what that is all about. What are some examples of good character? Just a few include:

- Honesty
- Bravery
- Compassion
- Leadership
- Courage
- Selflessness
- Loyalty

Of course, making connections/relationships remain as the fundamental foundation of our homeroom program. As we 'fall' into October, we will display our Panther Pride and show support for our school community with the cheering and celebration of homecoming. Go Panthers! This is also the time of year we find creative ways and places to take our homeroom pictures. We do enjoy these photo ops and proudly display these posters in our rooms. It is remarkable to see their growth from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.

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

Lastly, we also love it when students just stop and say 'hi.' We like to hear about the positive things that are going on in their life, too! Please encourage your child to stop in 'down the hall'. We would love to see them and get to know them more!

Substitutes Needed

For the 2022-2023 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 Introduction

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. The students will also have four different CORE teachers. CORE classes include: Math, Reading, Writing, Science, and Social Studies. Their homeroom teacher will teach them two CORE classes, and then they will rotate to three different teachers for their other three CORE classes.

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
- Pamela Zitelman
- Whitney Folkers
- Ethan Ringlien
- Sabrina Flood





MUSIC

Grade 5 Music

Mrs. Kinstler (Kjos/Zeitleman) 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. Kinstler, and I am new to the middle school this year and to teaching 5th grade. I've taught band and general music in Cashton, Bangor, and La Crosse. Along with 5th grade, I am teaching 6th grade Keyboards and More, 7th grade Guitars and Musicals, and band lessons for grades 6-8.

Hi, I am Ms. Nimm, and I'm starting my 17th year of teaching, all here at West Salem! Along with 5th grade, 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 that will involve a lot of moving, singing, listening, and rhythm/pitch activities. We learn about songs reflecting American history and culture, as well as different holidays.



6th Grade Keyboards and More

In Keyboards and More, students started the year off reviewing rhythms. They then got their own piano keyboard to start learning how to play piano and have already done one performance assessment on using the black keys on the keyboard. Students are now learning how to play music using middle C position and learning the names of the white keys. Next they will take a short break away from the keyboards and learn about traditional Chinese instruments and compose some music using traditional Chinese instruments in Garageband.

7th Grade Guitars and Musicals

In Guitars and Musicals class, students started out learning the parts of the guitar and began playing single notes on the E string. Soon they will be learning the B string and reading music to perform short exercises on the guitar using those two strings.



West Salem Middle School Marching Band Fall Parades

Thursday, September 29

Torch Light Parade

La Crosse, Wisconsin

Report Time in Uniform: 5:45pm at WSMS Band Room

Parade starts at 7pm and runs on Gillette and Caledonia Streets

Approx Return Time: 8:45pm

Friday, September 30

Homecoming Parade

West Salem, Wisconsin

Students Dress with Panther Pride (Orange & Black)

Parade Starts at 2:15pm



Welcome to 6th Grade!

Thank you for the great turnout at the open house. For those of you who couldn't make it or those of you who were overwhelmed with the amount of information, we wanted to remind you of a few things.

Personal responsibility is very important in middle school. If your child is absent, there are several ways to get caught up. Students should communicate with their teachers about what they missed, but they should also check Google Classroom, contact other students, and look at the Homework Hotline.

Speaking of homework, students should expect to have homework in math and reading on a daily basis. Math homework will be an extension of what is learned during class. Students will be given plenty of class time to work, but may have to take some math work home to complete it. Typically in reading, students are expected to read an independent reading book nightly for a minimum of 20 minutes or 20 pages. Most other classes will have homework on an intermittent basis. Please encourage your child to complete their homework the same night they had class 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 the transition run as smoothly as possible. Your child is in good hands!

We are looking forward to a great year!
The 6th Grade Team



“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- ELA
Ms. Friell- ELA
Mrs. Weber- Math/
Advanced Math
Mrs. Piersma- Math
Mr. Baker- Science
Ms. Lovely- Special Education



Attendance

Please be in school when you are feeling well. We want students to be in our classes! If you know you are going to be absent, please call the main office.



Google Classroom

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 google classroom FIRST. If you still have further questions, please email the teacher.



Skyward

Homeroom teachers check grades on Skyward weekly. Students and parents can check Skyward, too. Please be patient with teachers to get grades entered after a test or project. When a student completes a reassessment, the most recent score will show.



September Units of Study

Science- microscopes and cells

Social Studies- intro to government

Math- integers and rationale numbers

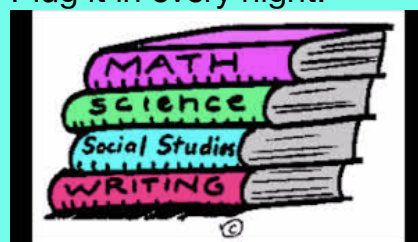
Advanced Math- equations

ELA- parts of speech and story elements

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. We will be supplying students with assignment notebooks.

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



8th Grade Mathematics

Welcome back! We will start the year getting to know each other through a student survey, math inventory, and spirolaterals. We are really looking forward to getting back into the routine of school!!!

Regular Math (Unit 1) - Mrs. Coe and Mrs. Snook

This will be our first year in our new 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 learning targets for Chapter 1:

- 1.1: Write and solve one-step equations
- 1.2: Write and solve multi-step equations
- 1.3: Write and solve equations with variables on both sides
- 1.4: Solve literal equations for given variables

Algebra (Unit 1 and 2) - Mrs. Coe

We will be reviewing some basic skills of algebra like solving linear equations while learning about absolute value and inequalities. We will start Mathcounts early in the month. Students will be required to complete Mathcounts problems as a daily warm up.

The learning targets for Unit 1 and 2:

- 1.1: Write and solve equations.
- 1.6: Write and solve equations involving absolute value.
- 2.4: Write and solve inequalities.
- 2.5: Write and solve compound inequalities.
- 2.6: Write and solve inequalities involving absolute value.



Grade 8 news (cont)

Eighth-grade Social Studies explores the history of our nation from the events that led to the American Revolution through the Civil War. Throughout the year, students will work to develop the skills which historians use each and every day-- analysis, research, critical thinking, and much more. Act 30 comes into effect this year, so the end of our year will include an exploration of the Holocaust and other genocides.

Our learning targets for September include:

- 8.HTS.1: Develop claims using evidence to support reasoning
- 8.HTS.2: Communicate and critique conclusions
- 8.CE.1 Express personal reactions to current events.
- 8.CE.2 Summarize current events.
- 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

8th Grade ELA - Rachel Sackett and Brianna Meyer

You may notice you do not have a separate reading and English class this year. You will read and write everyday in ELA. Having the same class each day opens the door for unique opportunities of working with the other ELA class. We join together for various activities, specifically Book Clubs. Both ELA classes are planned together by Mrs. Meyer and Mrs. Sackett, so students in either class can expect the same content. The middle school is moving toward doing more team teaching. Team teaching provides many benefits for students: more adult help and connections, a variety of teaching styles, more feedback, and individualized attention. At the beginning of the year, we will get to know each other and classroom expectations. Once we have established our routine, we will begin digging into our own identities as readers, writers, and people. We look forward to a fun, fantastic, and fabulous school year!



“Meet Us in the Middle”



Spanish - Sra. Kirchner

Bienvenidos to Spanish in Middle School. I am Sra. Kirchner, the new Spanish teacher here at the middle school. I am from Barcelona, Spain and I am really excited to get to know all the students and share with them my language and my culture.

6th Grade

Sixth grade Spanish will begin with basic conversation words and pronunciation. We will be able to introduce ourselves, use classroom phrases, and continue to add new vocabulary. I am going to try to teach as much Spanish as possible, so they get the most real experience they can!

7th Grade

In seventh grade Spanish we will begin by reviewing and building our conversational skills. Students will use cognates to add more details to basic conversations and ask each other questions. We will also make a project about the weather in Spanish where they will report it and I will send it to Spain for them to watch it!! What an amazing opportunity!

8th grade

In 8th grade we will use our conversational skills by having simple conversations in Spanish. We will also learn how to describe a person and create our version of guess who! We are going to have a great time!

Spanish 1/8th Grade Elective

In Spanish 1 we will learn about the SUPER 7 verbs and include them in our daily activities. I am very excited to see you all grow and build a family this year! It means the world to me that you picked Spanish as an elective class! During the month of September we will be conducting "Special Person Interviews." The interviews are a really fun way to get to know each other and speak in Spanish!



Art - Mrs. Hemker

Grade 5

Welcome to MS grade 5 families! WE begin the trimester working on an abstract painting of our names. After that will be working on a variety of portraits. A painting of an animal that represents them is the first focus. Later 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 some mini-works in various styles. Our first project will include creating a portfolio for storage. Students will fill this portfolio with completed works by the end of the trimester. Our first large scale project will guide a review of material use by creating a portrait sampler. Students will then move on to some artist research and will create an informational poster as well as a parody.

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 create the entire drawing from start to finish by observing an inanimate object of their choice. We will also be working on a unit focusing on one point perspective.

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. We will then move on to practicing Acrylic Paint techniques. 8th graders will also begin to design their wall block as a lasting way to represent their 8th grade self.

8th Grade Elective

Welcome to Art Elective!!! Art Elective students will work with more in depth media technique as well as varied subject matter and creative problem solving strategies. They will create practice samplers of materials as well as completed pieces using these various techniques. Our first project is an individual response to the creation of a page for an alphabet book. Our first technique sampler will be with watercolor pencil.



Daily Physical Activity /

The Healthy Living team is excited for another school year! We plan to get our students outside as often as possible, so please have your children prepare for that. In the mornings, the grass can still be a little wet, so having an extra pair of shoes to change into is helpful. We're looking forward to another year where we can help create lifelong movers!

-Ms. Serres, Mr. Brewer, Mrs. Olson and Mr. Reader

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"



