

WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL



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Volume 8
Issue 2

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Dear WSMS Families,

The 2020-2021 school year will have a unique start for all of us. September 1-11 we will be online grades 5-8. We will be taking attendance for the online format. Starting on September 14th ALL 5th graders will report to school each day. Grades 6-8 will have a blended format. Our online and blended schedules have been communicated out, but they have been included on page 21 of this newsletter as well.

Staff members have been hard at work preparing and planning for the start of school and the flexibility required to deliver our instruction whether we are online, blended, or all in person. 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.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

School Starts at 7:50!!

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

MORNING PROCEDURES

Beginning September 14th, students should observe social distancing practices outside. A bell will ring at 7:30. At this time, students will be allowed into the building and must report to their Homeroom. They may also stay outside until 7:43.

- 5th Graders will enter the building through their Pod entrance.
- 6th Graders will enter the building through their Pod entrance.
- 7th Graders will enter the building through the BGC entrance.
- 8th Graders will enter the building through the front doors.

First period starts at 7:50am and 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.



"Meet Us in the Middle"



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.

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 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, martial 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”



From the Nurse

Screening:

Hello Parents!! The Health Office will be asking for your guidance on screening your children at home each morning. We are asking that you monitor your student and if they have any of the following symptoms, that you keep them home from school.

Any one of the following symptoms: Fever >100.4, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, vomiting and diarrhea
or Any two or more of the following symptoms: Unusual fatigue, muscle/body aches, headaches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, runny nose/congestion, nausea/abdominal pain.

I have received documentation from families of students that do have frequent headaches or allergy symptoms. Thank you for that information, as it will be taken into consideration as we assess students in person.

Mask/Cloth Face Covering:

- **Students/Staff:** will wear masks/face covering in school buildings. These are required.
- Masks/face coverings promote the safety, health and well-being of students, staff and community.
- Two washable masks/face coverings will be provided; students may bring their own mask.
- Grade 4K to 12 will wear masks/face coverings. However, 4K and K will only wear during activity, singing and where social distancing is difficult.
- **Exception:** individuals who cannot remove face coverings without assistance and/or significant sensory needs or use lip reading for communication may use a face shield as an alternative.
- Education will be provided.
- Mask breaks will be provided regularly by teachers and staff throughout the day.

Snacks:

- Each student brings their own snacks

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, everyone should:

- Clean your hands often, either with soap and water for 20 seconds or a hand sanitizer (it is okay to use alcohol based hand sanitizer in our buildings).
- Put distance between yourself and other people (at least 6 feet).
- Be mindful of your outside of work travel and leisure activities.
- Don't congregate in congested areas, such as the work room and break room areas.
- Wear your cloth face covering.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces daily.

Be SAFE, Be WELL, Be KIND

COVID-19 we are all in this together

~Beth R. Clements RN, BSN

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.



“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 14

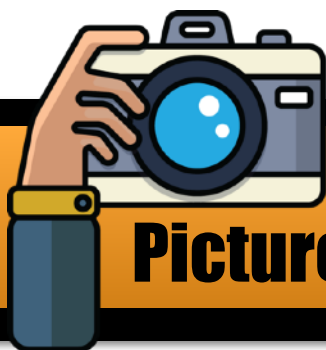
February 10

May 12

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.



Picture Days...

Monday, Sept. 28: A-K

Tuesday, Sept. 29: L-Z

Counselor Comments from Mr. Lang...

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

WELCOME BACK to all of our returning students!!!

Claiming that this is going to be an interesting year is an understatement. The key words to keep in mind will be patience and flexibility. No matter what educational format we are in throughout the year, please remember that learning is in the process...not the completion. Together, we've got this!

Our 6th-8th grade homerooms are starting out a bit different this year. We are TEMPORARILY reorganizing them by grade level. This is to help reduce the number of "cross interactions" students have throughout the day. Once we are given the go ahead, we WILL return to our original, multigrade-level homerooms. We are in year two of using the Character Strong program as our guiding foundation for our homeroom lessons. As we kick off the new school year, our initial focus will be on Bonding/Connecting/Getting to Know each other. (Of course, this will be a year-long process!).

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 (and flexible) 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 2020-2021 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"



From the 5th Grade Team...

We are so excited for you to be the newest group to “Meet Us in the Middle” at our new school. 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.

We will be starting the first two weeks of the school year online. Your child should be regularly attending Zoom calls with their teachers and following their daily online schedule, as well as frequently checking Google Classroom and email. On September 14th, we will resume school in person and will be together five days a week! Please remember that a mask will be required on the bus, in the building, and in the classrooms. We will be teaching and/or reviewing hand washing techniques, how to properly wear a mask, and maintaining distance within the classrooms. Children are more than welcome to bring in their own hand sanitizer and are highly encouraged to bring a personal water bottle and backpack into the classroom.

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 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.

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!

We’ll be there for you, on Zoom or in school!

The 5th Grade Team

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



Upcoming Dates:

- August 31st-WEB Orientation (Virtual)
- September 1st-First Day of Online School
- September 7th-No School
- September 14th-First Day of In-Person School



“Meet Us in the Middle”



5th Grade, Cont.

Music — 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 31st year of teaching, all here at West Salem. 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 15th year of teaching, all here at West Salem, just like Mrs. Glasel! This is my second 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 that involves a lot of moving, singing, listening, and rhythm activities. We learn about songs reflecting American history and culture as well as different holidays.



Music will start online with some singing, beat, and instrument families activities. When the students get back to school face-to-face, we will be team teaching by splitting the class into smaller sections and rotate the students through the two classrooms to assist with social distancing.



“Meet Us in the Middle”



Welcome to 6th grade!

Personal responsibility is very important in middle school. Included in that is attendance. During online learning, attendance will be taken every time the class Zooms. Attendance is critical when we are face to face in the block scheduling format since we only see students every other day. Students who are not present should communicate with their teachers about what they missed in person or via email. They should also check Google Classroom, Homework Hotline, and email daily.

Flexibility is key this year. We will be in and out of different formats of learning; online, blended, and face to face. Students will be responsible to complete daily classwork by due dates. The following were strategies 6th graders found helpful this past spring:

- Designate a quiet spot in your home to work on classwork/Zoom
- Fill out a schedule with child (blank one was sent home with technology)
- Set alarms for scheduled Zoom classes
- Fill in assignment notebook (provided)
- Use earbuds during Zoom meetings

Throughout the school year, the 6th grade team will be working with your student to make this transition and the school year run as smoothly as possible. Please be patient with us as we navigate this crazy year and don't be afraid to reach out to us as needed. 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/Katie Everson (substitute) - Science

Sara Jeranek - Social Studies

Amy Marshall - Resource, Alexis Kuchta - Resource

Colleen Betita - Resource



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.



“Meet Us in the Middle”



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

Mr. Mahlum- social studies
Mrs. Rochester- reading
Mrs. Weber- math
Mrs. Piersma- math
Mr. Baker- science
Ms. Friell- ELA
Mrs. Mueller- special education



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

In addition, please be on time to zoom classes.



Google Classroom- This is a change for all students. We are using 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.



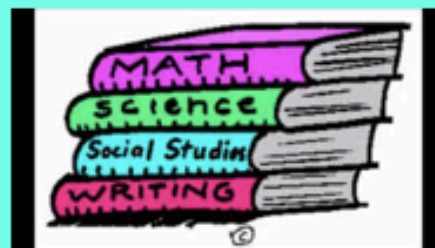
Skyward- Homeroom teachers check grades on Skyward weekly. Students and parents can check Skyward, too. Teachers usually enter grades weekly. Please be patient with teachers to get grades entered after a test or project.



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.





General Music 7 (Guitars and Musicals) - 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.

Soundscapes (7th) - Ms. Nimm This is a non-performing music class that offers a variety of different learning opportunities. Students will be starting this school year with a unit on how the human voice works. They'll look at how the larynx is designed, as well as what it takes to be an opera, pop, or Broadway singer.

News from the Band Room

Welcome Back WSMS Band Students! We are excited to get back to making music again this fall. Our 7th & 8th Grade Bands will be in groups of about 30 and our room is set-up with proper spacing and strategic barriers to make for a very safe environment. We are also purchasing musician masks and instrument covers to align with the University studies that were conducted this summer.

Although we will not likely have a performance for a while, we are excited to try some new things this year in band. We hope to provide our families a peek into our classroom by providing some video performances to watch at home. We will not have our traditional lessons during hybrid teaching but we will launch our new Essential Elements Interactive platform. This will be a great improvement for playing at home.

As for our beginners, we are getting a late start, but I will work hard to help our new band members have a great experience. Our two weeks online will help us to get ready for our first days of hybrid learning. This certainly will be a unique school year and together, we will have a great experience in band.

~Mr. Waldhart



“Meet Us in the Middle”



8th grade mathematics — Mrs. Bentzen & Mrs. Coe

We will be working with your student virtually every day until September 14th. We then begin to see students in person every other day. We will start the year getting to know each other through Zoom classes (student survey, math inventory, spirolaterals). We are really looking forward to getting back into the routine of school!!!!

Regular Math (Chapter 1) - Mrs. Bentzen and Mrs. Coe

This will be our seventh 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 of Chapters 1-3) - Mrs. Bentzen

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 of 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

General Music 8 (Guitars/Keyboards) - Mrs. Glasel

The students will chose which instrument they will learn this trimester. They have the choice of learning one instrument all year or splitting up learning one instrument for a trimester and one instrument for two trimesters. This month will start with the basic knowledge of the instrument and will begin to learn some simple songs.

8th Grade African Drumming — Ms. Nimm

This class is designed around the World Drumming curriculum designed by Will Schmid. The school year will start by discovering what it takes to become a successful drumming ensemble, which instruments are used, and how to play each instrument successfully. Students will also work on rhythm reading by participating in rhythm cup ensembles.



“Meet Us in the Middle”



English/Language Arts - Mrs. Martinson, Mrs. Sackett, and Mr. Tashner.

You may notice you do not have a separate reading and English class. We will be combining reading and writing daily. We get to have class every day instead of every other day! Another change is that you will have three teachers. When in person, you will report to the teacher's room that appears on your schedule. However, all three of us will be instructing and grading. The middle school is moving toward doing more co-teaching. Co-teaching provides many benefits for students: more adult help and connections, a variety of teaching styles, more feedback, and individualized attention.

During on-line learning (September 1-11) we will be focusing on getting to know each other and on-line expectations. When you return to school for Hybrid learning (starting September 14), we will begin digging into our own identities as readers, writers, and people. We look forward to a fun, fantastic, and fabulous school 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 know this year won't be quite the same as the past, but we are still going to have a great time learning all about the Earth and its systems! 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 Weather unit where we will make observations and predictions. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns, and once again, welcome!

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.)



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.

Unless COVID results in conflicts, students will once again be research and developing a National History Day project which will focus on this year's theme "Communication 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.

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

- Explain what history is and why it is important to study
- Describe important facts (who, what, when, where, why) of current events
- Begin to develop an argument about whether the colonists were justified in revolting.



"Meet Us in the Middle"



Allied, Etc.

Spanish - Mrs. Phillips

6th Grade

Welcome to Spanish, sixth graders! Spanish class will begin with basic conversation words and pronunciation. We will have simple conversations and continue to incorporate new vocabulary. We will also celebrate Hispanic Heritage month by learning about individuals that have influenced our country! Please check Google Classroom for resources (virtual books, videos, music) to practice. I look forward to meeting you all! ¡Bienvenidos!

7th Grade

¡Hola! In seventh grade Spanish we will begin by reviewing and building our conversational skills. Students will add more details to basic conversations and ask each other questions. We will also discuss and compare the weather in Spanish speaking countries. ¿Qué tiempo hace? I am looking forward to seeing you all again!

8th Grade and Spanish I

¡Bienvenidos! We have accomplished a lot so far in middle school Spanish and we will continue to build on it in eighth grade. We will use our developing conversational skills regularly by speaking to each other in Spanish. 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!. Our cultural focus will be Hispanic Heritage month which begins September 15. ¡Hasta pronto!



Healthy Living Team

Mr. Brewer, Mrs. Olson, Ms. Turner, & Ms. Serres

Welcome back!! We are excited for a new year! The Healthy Living Staff cannot wait to get your children moving again. We are welcoming Ms. Serres to our Healthy Living Team. Many of your students will recognize her from last year when she student taught and subbed in our building. Students will also recognize Mrs. Turner; she was formally Ms. Becker, but got married over the summer. Students will not need to bring a change of clothes for Healthy living at this time. You WILL need athletic shoes. Don't be afraid to "m"ask us any questions. (Pun created by Mr. Brewer)



"Meet Us in the Middle"



Allied, Etc. (cont.)

Art - Mrs. Hemker

While the start of this year will certainly look a little different than it usually does, we still plan to work on as many topics/units/projects as we would under regular circumstances in art. We have a large space to spread out to work. We are getting creative with materials and looking forward to seeing students back in the studio! All grades will be creating a “zine”, and we look forward to learning more about that. In addition to those, each grade has other topics to consider; those are listed below.

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 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.

Grade 7

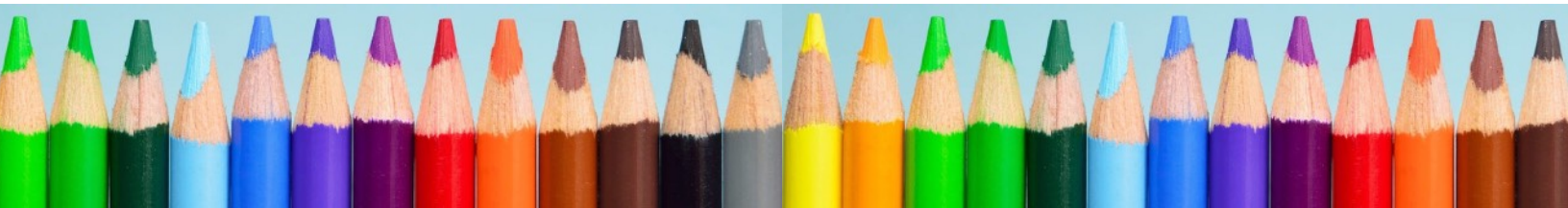
7th graders will spend the month of September experimenting with drawing from different points of view. One of the projects will require students to create the entire drawing from start to finish by observing an inanimate object. We will also be working on observational drawings of shoes.

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 their 8th grade self.

8th Grade Elective

During this year-long experience, students will work in many mediums and in many styles. We will begin with some dry drawing tools, such as pencil, color pencil and inks. I am looking forward to experimenting with techniques along with them.



Choir (6, 7, 8th)-Ms. Nimm All three choirs will be reviewing/learning warm-ups, reviewing/learning sight-singing, and beginning to read choir music as we work through the first month of school. The classroom has been set up to allow as much space between singers as possible, and all three choirs have been divided into smaller sections to make sure that singing is done safely. I can't wait to hear all three groups singing again!

7th and 8th Grade Tech Ed

Welcome Back Everyone!

As parents you are probably wondering how do you teach a "hands on" class online to start the year. Well, we will be working with ruler measurement to really drive home the concept of this life-long skill. We will also be working with CAD (computer aided design) using an app called OnShape. OnShape is a cloud based CAD program that is not computer specific. The students will be drawing basic shapes and design which will progress into parametric design (3D modeling).

~Mr. Mathison

STEM Encore

In STEM, we will be navigating through the blended learning environment by having an in-class project and an at-home project. In 6th grade STEM, students will be learning about the design process and developing a foot orthosis prototype for a student in need for the at home project. The 6th grader will be designing a paper roller coaster using certain constraints for the at school project. In 7th grade STEM, we will be learning about multiview sketches and technical drawing at home. At school we will use what we've learned to design and create a puzzle cube. In 8th grade STEM, we will be learning about ruler measurement to the nearest 1/16th inch and creating air skimmers at home while doing a paper roller coaster project back at school.

Robotics

For the month of September, we will be researching various robots and designs that are used in the real world today. Students will have their eyes opened on how much technology is used in their everyday lives. After our robot research, we will be learning everything about gears and gear ratios as we prepare to start using the VEX kits to build our own robots as the year goes on.

~Mr. Jones

8th Grade Auto- Mr. Liethen

Students are required to have their own safety glasses. Sharing of glasses will not be allowed.

Trap Team

There will be an informational and organizational meeting for any student 6-12 that is interested in participating in the Fall Trap Season. This meeting will be held on Sunday September 13th at 2:00 PM at the West Salem Rod and Gun Club "lower pole barn". Masks and social distancing are required. If you are interested in finding more about the trap team, please attend!! If you are interested in participating, but can not attend the meeting, please email me at liethen.paul@wsalem.k12.wi.us.

I look forward to seeing you!!!

~Mr. Liethen

Supporting Your Middle Grader



The middle school years can be exciting, as your child moves toward adulthood and enjoys new experiences. But they can also bring challenges, like finding ways to keep connected with your tween and helping him handle peer pressure. Here's how to support your child and help him thrive.

Stay in the loop

As your tween becomes more independent, he may not want to spend as much time at home or with you. These ideas can keep the lines of communication open and let him know you care.

- **Reach out.** Ask specific questions, like what he's learning in history class or who won last night's football game. You could also send texts or leave supportive notes for him. ("Good luck on your presentation. I can't wait to hear how it goes!")



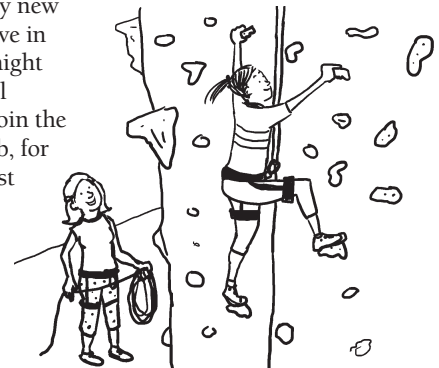
- **Make friends welcome.** Social circles are important at this age. By encouraging your child to invite friends home or on family outings, you'll show that what matters to him matters to you. You may also get to spend more time together.

- **Use car time.** Many parents find the car to be a great place for conversations with their kids. When you drive your middle schooler to piano practice or to get a haircut, make the most of it. If he's quiet, try talking about your day or sharing family news to get the conversation started.

Build self-esteem

Middle graders can feel unsure of themselves from time to time. Help your tween develop a good self-image with strategies like these.

- **Encourage confidence-boosting hobbies.** Noncompetitive activities provide a safe way for your child to try new things and to believe in her abilities. She might work on the school poetry journal or join the environmental club, for instance. Or suggest physical activities such as yoga or rock climbing, which can make her feel good about her body without pressure to compete.



- **Be there.** Make your middle grader feel valued by attending events she cares about. For example, if she's on the sound crew for the school play, go to opening night. If she loves horses, take her to a horse show.

- **Celebrate strengths.** Everyone is better at some things than others. If your youngster puts herself down, challenge her to list at least five of her strong points. *Examples:* "I'm a good babysitter." "I have a great memory." When she wants to improve at something (say, skateboarding), suggest that she set a goal and make a plan for achieving it, such as practicing 30 minutes three times a week.

continued



Be proactive about peer pressure

Tweens care a lot about what their friends think, and this is the age when they're most likely to be introduced to alcohol, cigarettes, vaping, and other drugs. But research shows they're also influenced by their parents' opinions. Help your child manage peer pressure and avoid dangerous behaviors with these tips.

- **Practice specific responses.** It's hard for tweens to think clearly when they're on the spot. Planning ahead can help your child make good choices. Role-play what she could do if friends asked her to drink beer, for instance. She might say, "No, that sounds dangerous." Or she could come up with an alternative. ("Let's go to the park instead.")
- **Encourage safe activities.** Help your child find groups centered around drug-free forms of fun. You might encourage her to sign up for a youth program at a community center, join a bowling league, or attend middle-school events at places of worship. Also, encourage her to think of safe ways to occupy time with friends (experimenting with hairstyles, playing Ping-Pong).
- **Keep talking.** Hearing the same message on different occasions will let it sink in and give your middle schooler plenty of chances to share concerns. You might bring up drugs by mentioning a news report you heard. Or ask what she learned about alcohol in health class. Be clear about where you stand and why, and discuss what could happen if she drinks, smokes, vapes, or does drugs. For example, she could become addicted, get grounded, or even be arrested.

Discuss bullying

Bullying tends to peak in middle school. Consider this advice to help your tween avoid being bullied—or avoid bullying others.

- **Set a standard.** Explain that if he isn't sure whether a comment or an action would hurt someone, he shouldn't say or do it. Suggest that he ask himself, "Would I act like this if my



grandparents or the principal were watching?"

- **Prevent cyberbullying.** Does your child text or post online? Remind him to type kind messages and to communicate only with others who do, too. Explain that if someone sends a hurtful or nasty message, he shouldn't respond, since that can escalate the problem. Instead, he should block the sender and tell you.
- **Take action.** Your middle grader can help stop bullying by speaking up. Let him know it's important that he tell a teacher or another adult if he is bullied or if he witnesses bullying. Also, talk about how he can respond to bullying. For example, he should stay calm, walk away, and get help.

Manage stress

More responsibilities at home and at school can cause your child to feel stressed sometimes. Try these suggestions for supporting her.

- **Stick to routines.** Knowing what to expect can make your youngster's life more predictable and less stressful. Help her set up routines that work for both of you, such as having her do homework right after school or packing her lunch at night. She might need to create new routines as her schedule changes. When swimming season starts, for example, she may have to do homework after dinner.
- **Pay attention to sources of anxiety.** Does your tween have a tendency to put off big projects and then stress about them at the last minute? Remind her of this, and brainstorm ways to prevent it from happening again. For example, she should start work sooner and perhaps buddy up with a classmate to stay on track. Or if



she's irritable because she isn't getting enough sleep, set an earlier bedtime.

- **Watch for bigger issues.** Some stress is normal for middle graders. But symptoms that last more than two weeks may indicate a problem. If your child isolates herself from friends and activities, complains of headaches or stomachaches, or is often tired or sad, have her see her doctor. A professional can rule out physical causes and suggest ways to help if she has anxiety or depression.

Middle Years

September 2020

Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

Family mood lifter

Want to learn about your tween's day while putting a smile on everyone's face? During dinner, pose upbeat questions like "What made you happy today?" or "What are you looking forward to this week?" *Idea:* Ask your child to come up with tomorrow's questions.

Clean = safer and healthier

Remind your middle schooler that she has a key role to play in keeping her environment (and herself) as clean as possible. That means washing her hands frequently—especially now. She should also toss trash in bins and wipe up anything she spills so she doesn't make extra work for busy parents or school custodians.

Rice and ratios

The kitchen is a great place for your tween to brush up on ratios and percentages. For example, while cooking rice, ask him what the ratio is of dry rice to liquid (1:2, or 1 cup uncooked rice to 2 cups water). Or suggest that he use percentages to mix up his perfect batch of trail mix. Maybe he'll use 50 percent nuts, 30 percent dried fruit, 10 percent seeds, and 10 percent chocolate chips.

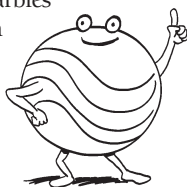
Worth quoting

"No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world." *Robin Williams*

Just for fun

Q: How many marbles can you put in an empty jar?

A: One. After that, the jar isn't empty anymore.



Back-to-school questions, answered

The start of a new school year is an exciting time. But the disruptions this year may have left you wondering how to help your tween do her best. Here are answers to questions from parents like you.

Q: My tween is struggling to get back into learning mode this school year. What can I do?

A: Children—and adults—face many distractions in the era of COVID-19. Help your child get on track by showing enthusiasm for what he is learning, whether it's in school or online. You might watch a movie that's set in an era he's studying in history or ask him to explain an engineering project he's working on.



Q: With all the COVID-19 news, my daughter is a little nervous about school. What should I say?

A: Getting the facts may help your child feel better. Ask what, specifically, she's concerned about. If she has a question you can't answer, look it up together. Explain that by following rules—even hard ones for middle graders like social distancing from friends—she reduces her risk of getting sick or spreading germs to you, her grandparents, and others.

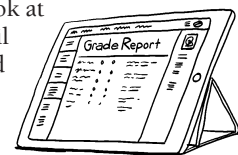


Q: My child is concerned that she won't remember what she learned last year. How can I help?

A: Explain to your tween that her classmates are in the same situation. Teachers know that students may need to review last year's work, such as math formulas or Spanish vocabulary, before moving on to new material. If your child doesn't understand something, encourage her to speak up. Her teacher will understand—and provide support.

Q: When my tween does schoolwork online, how do I know he's doing what he's supposed to do?

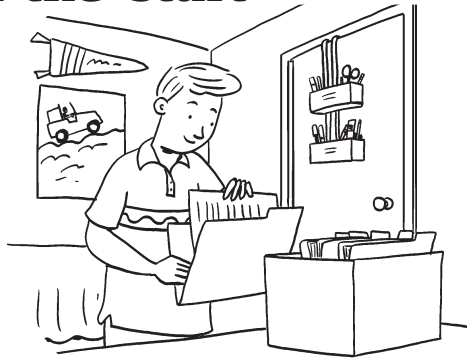
A: Have your tween close any apps or tabs not related to his work. That will help him stay focused. Also, look over completed online work just as you might look at paper-and-pencil assignments and projects. You may be able to monitor grades online and see whether he has any missing work. And you can always contact teachers if you have questions about your child's progress. 🍊



Organized from the start

In middle school, staying organized is one of the most important steps to success. Help your child stay on top of his schoolwork with these strategies.

Use a planner. Make sure your tween has a planner—and takes advantage of it. He should write in assignment deadlines, study sessions, and test dates. Then he could estimate and enter the time he'll spend on each task. That will help him plan work sessions.



File everything. Setting up and using a filing system means your tween will always find what he needs. He might choose a different-color folder for each class. Or he could have one folder for notes and assignments and another for completed work. *Tip:* Suggest that he turn a shower caddy into a portable school-supply station.

Invest 10 minutes each day.

Encourage your child to take five minutes before school to consult his planner and check that he has

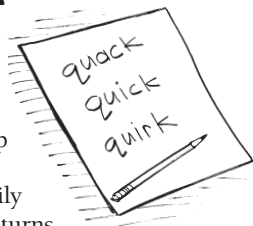
what he needs for that day. After school, he can spend five minutes filing papers and throwing away anything he doesn't need. 👍

Word games

Word games are not only fun, they help build vocabulary and spelling skills. Here are two to try.

Word morph

Have your youngster write a five- or six-letter word at the top of a sheet of paper. Let family members take turns making a new word by changing one letter in the last word written. *Example: quack, quick, quirk.* When you can't make any more words, pick a new word and play again.



Word staircase

Each player writes the numbers 4 to 12 down the left side of her paper. One person picks a two-letter combination that often begins words (*en, cr, ph*) and sets a timer for five minutes. Next to each number, write a word with that many letters and beginning with the letters chosen. *Example:* For *en*, put *envy* beside 4 and *enact* by 5. To win, come up with the most words that no one else used. 👍

OUR PURPOSE

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

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Q & A

Middle school: A parent's role

Q When my daughter was in elementary school, I was very active in her school life. Now that she's older, should I still be so involved?

A Research shows that students of all ages do better when their parents are involved. But that involvement may look a little different now that your daughter is in middle school.

For instance, she's expected to take more responsibility for her learning. So you might offer to brainstorm ideas for a project, but let her choose the topic. Or if she's not sure how to approach an assignment, encourage her to ask her teacher for help rather than having you reach out for her.

On the other hand, some things will look the same. Attend back-to-school night and parent-teacher conferences, just as you did when she was in elementary school. Introduce yourself to your child's teachers, and ask how they prefer to be contacted. Finally, visit the school website and sign up to receive emails—then be sure to check the site and your inbox regularly for news. 👍



Parent to Parent

Helping tweens bounce back

My son Matthew can be really hard on himself. When he was eliminated early during last year's spelling bee, he called himself a "failure" and said he wouldn't enter this year.

His English teacher told Matthew she hoped he'd try again. In fact, she encouraged him to look at the setback as an opportunity to build "resilience" (the ability to bounce back from tough situations).

Following the teacher's lead, I asked Matthew to tell me what

he'd learned from the spelling bee. He said he had trouble with the words that came from French. Then he said he guessed he could spend more time studying those words for this year's bee.

To try to build up his resilience, I'm encouraging Matthew to take chances with other things that interest him. For instance, he recently took up baking.

When he frosted his first cake before it cooled and the icing melted down the sides, he learned that slipups aren't the end of the world. That messy cake still tasted great! 👍



Fall 2020 Online Schedule

Definitions	Online Learning	Learning that happens in real-time. Students attend the class period with their teacher through the Zoom online meeting platform. Attendance is taken like it is during in-person learning. Online learning will mirror in-person learning as much as possible.
	Office Hours	Teachers will be available via Zoom to meet with students that need assistance or have questions. Open Office hours will be from 1:00 - 1:45 daily.
	Scheduled Office Hours	Teachers (or students) may schedule an appointment to meet with students that need additional assistance. Scheduled Office hours will be from 1:45-2:30 pm daily.
	Zoom	The online/app-based meeting platform for online, face-to-face instruction and interaction.
	Google Classroom	The online platform WSMS teachers use to post instruction and course material.

Times	5th	6th	7th	8th
8:00 - 8:40	Block 1	8:00 - 8:20 Homeroom	8:00 - 8:20 Homeroom	8:00 - 8:20 Homeroom
8:45 - 9:25	Block 2	8:30 - 8:50 Allied	8:30 - 9:10 Block 1	8:30 - 9:10 Block 1
9:30 - 9:45	Allied	9:00 - 9:20 Allied	9:20 - 10:00 Block 2	9:20 - 10:00 Block 2
9:50 - 10:05	Allied	9:30 - 10:10 Block 1	10:10 - 10:30 Allied	10:10 - 10:50 Block 3
10:15 - 10:55	Block 3	10:20 - 11:00 Block 2	10:35 - 10:55 Allied	11:00 - 11:20 Allied
11:05 - 11:50	Block 4 (45)	11:10 - 11:50 Block 3	11:05 - 11:50 Block 3 (45)	11:30 - 11:50 Allied
Noon - 12:30	Panther Time	Noon - 12:30 Panther Time	Noon - 12:30 Panther Time	Noon - 12:30 Panther Time
12:30 - 1:00	Lunch	12:30 - 1:00 Lunch	12:30 - 1:00 Lunch	12:30 - 1:00 Lunch
1:00 - 1:45	Open Office Hours	1:00 - 1:45 Open Office Hours	1:00 - 1:45 Open Office Hours	1:00 - 1:45 Open Office Hours
1:45 - 2:30	Scheduled with Students	1:45 - 2:30 Scheduled with Students	1:45 - 2:30 Scheduled with Students	1:45 - 2:30 Scheduled with Students
2:30 - 3:30	Teacher Collaboration	2:30 - 3:30 Teacher Collaboration	2:30 - 3:30 Teacher Collaboration	2:30 - 3:30 Teacher Collaboration

Blended Format Schedule

Last Names A - K will be the WEST group

- IN-PERSON Monday/Wednesday, ONLINE Tuesday/Thursday

Last Names L - Z will be the SALEM group

- IN-PERSON Tuesday/Thursday, ONLINE Monday/Wednesday

(example): 1 A Class List & 1 B Class List

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
West (A - K)	In-person - A	Online - A	In-person - B	Online - B
Salem (L - Z)	Online - A	In-person - A	Online - B	In-person - B

WEST SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT 2020-2021 CALENDAR

**Summer School July 20-August 7, 2020

AUGUST 2020				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

SEPTEMBER 2020				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
NS	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

OCTOBER 2020				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	ER	15	16
19	20	21	22	23#
26	27	28	29	NS*

#No school for Elementary & Middle students only

NOVEMBER 2020				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	NS	NS	NS
30				

DECEMBER 2020				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	NS	NS
NS	NS	NS	NS	

JANUARY 2021				
M	T	W	T	F
				NS
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
NS*	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

FEBRUARY 2021				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	ER	11	12
15	16	17	18	19#
22	23	24	25	26

MARCH 2021				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	SD
15	16	17	18	NS*
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

Note, April 6 is a school day.

APRIL 2021				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	NS
NS	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

#No school for Elementary & Middle students only

MAY 2021				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	ER	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
NS				

JUNE 2021				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	SD
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

May 12-ER
*ER K-8 Only
*9-11 No School
*12-SEP presentation day

First Day of School: September 1, 2020
Last Day of School: June 3, 2021
Graduation Day: May 30, 2021
Early Release Days:
October 14, February 10, May 12

SERVE WITH PASSION TO IGNITE CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, AND EXCELLENCE

NS = No School for All students
= No School for Elementary & Middle School students
ER = Early Release (Students dismissed at 12:20, Buses leave at 12:30)
SD = Snow Day or Make-up date (March 12 & June 4)
*** = Teacher Inservice (August 25 & 26, October 30, January 18, March 19 + 2 Floating)**

