

West Salem Middle School

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Welcome Back,

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find very important information related to the start of the school year this fall. This includes Jostens school picture information, W.E.B., registration, and open house information.

Registration will take place on August 13th from 10am-6pm. Student pictures can be taken during this time. Students can get their schedules and locker combinations. Students can also bring school supplies and put in lockers and practice opening their locker.

We will host Open House for our students and families on Tuesday, August 20th from 5pm-6:30pm. This is another opportunity for students to drop off supplies, practice locker combinations, walk through schedules, and meet staff.

Enjoy the rest of summer with friends and family!

Ben Wopat
Principal
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WEB - "Where Everybody Belongs"

WEB is a middle school orientation and transition program that welcomes 5th graders and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their middle school experience. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, the program trains mentors from your 8th grade class to be WEB Leaders. As positive role models, WEB Leaders are mentors and student leaders who guide the 5th graders to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to middle school and help facilitate 6th grade success.

More and more studies show that if students have a positive experience their first year in middle school, their chance for success increases dramatically. WEB provides the striation for 5th graders to receive support and guidance from 8th graders who have been through the challenges that middle school poses and understand that the transition to a larger school can sometimes be overwhelming.

WEB also acts as an anti-bullying program for our school by providing a cadre of student leaders who look for bullying behavior and help stop it. WEB gives older students permission to be aware of and report any negative behavior they see, creating a safer school for everybody.

WEB Leader Training will be August 12 & 13 8am-1pm
and
Incoming 5th gr. Orientation August 14 - 8:30am-12:30pm

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"Meet Us in the Middle"



Picture Day a whole new way

1. **No pre-ordering** - you will order after picture day. Photos are taken on a green screen so this allows parents to personalize their student's photos however they like.
2. Parents will get an email when pictures are ready to be viewed and purchased on Jostens website (usually a couple days after picture day).
3. Pictures are shipped directly to your home!!



Our "Green Screen" technology allows you to personalize backgrounds.

But it makes green clothing disappear into the background.

Don't wear green for picture day please!

Registration

Middle School registration forms are completed ONLINE - please see page 3

Payment of fees:

Again this year the RevTrak service fees will be waived for the month of August. Besides the fees, you are also able to pay on your lunch account. Please see page 10 for instructions.

iPad Insurance (optional) - \$25.00

Gr. 8 class t-shirt - \$10.00

Gr. 7 - no fee at this time

Gr. 6 - no fee at this time

G.r 5 - Class fee \$10.00



"Meet Us in the Middle"



Online Enrollment Verification

This letter will outline the online verification process. Online verification can be completed starting August 1st.

*This can only be completed through the Parent login not Student login.

To begin go the West Salem School District webpage at <http://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us> at the top of the screen click on SKYWARD (next to the school bus) then click on Student/Family. You will then get a login screen to enter your login/password. If you need your login and/or password please email lochen.janel@wsalem.k12.wi.us.

Be sure to select your middle school student (a top of page)! The top left of the screen under the word HOME - click on "Online Enrollment Verification" then click on your child's name. If you have more than one child you will need to complete each step for each child. This takes you step by step through registration.

Step 1 - Verify Student Information - Select the "Verify Student Information". Here you can request changes to your students information. Once all the information has been updated and **saved** or if no changes need to be made, select the back button (upper right hand side of the screen). **Check the box "I have competed this step"**. You are now done with this step. It is very important to verify this information and make any necessary changes. **We need EVERYONE to complete this step for each student, whether or not you make any changes.**

Step 2 - Emergency to Treat/Parental Consent- please complete the required information. Click on the Save button then check the box that you completed this step.

Step 3 - Permission Form- Field Trip, Photo and Internet - Select the button "Permission form". Check the box if you wish to give permission to have photos/videos taken of your child. **Save** and check the box that you completed this step.

Step 4 - Student and Parent Handbook - Select the button "Student and Parent Handbook". This will take you to the handbook. Please take a moment to read through the handbook. **By checking the Step 4 box you are verifying that you have read this document.**

Step 5-6 - Student Technology Handbook, iPad Agreement, Student Technology Use and Technology Use Agreement - Please take a minute to read the handbook with your child. **By checking the Steps 5- 6 box you are verifying that you have read the handbook.** By having your child type their name and parent typing their name as well as the date you are saying that you understand the Technology Use Agreement. Click **save**.

Step 7 - Athletic Sports Sign-up gr.6-8 only — please complete if your child is interested in any of the sports during school year.

Step 8 - Co-Curricular Pledge gr. 6-8 - required to complete if you child will be participating in sports

Step 9 - Concussion Info - please read. **By checking the box for step 10 you are verifying that you have read this information.**

Step 10 - Sudden Cardiac Arrest Info - please read. **By checking the box for step 10 you are verifying that you have read this information.**

Step 11 -Food Service Application (optional)

Step 12 - Complete Online Verification - Verify that you have completed ALL the steps. Then click on the button on the bottom right "**Submit Online Enrollment Verification.**"

**This will complete the online portion of your enrollment verification!!
Thanks for you help with this process!!**

****If you are unable to complete the Online Enrollment Verification and need a laptop to do so, please call the middle school office 786-2090 to set up a time to come in to complete****

- ◆ iPads will be distributed within the first week of school. More info & specific dates coming soon.
- ◆ iPads may be taken home *please note page 3 of the Technology Use Agreement regarding the iPad insurance.
- ◆ Homeroom teachers will review “Standards for Proper Device Care” found on pages 5-7 of the School District of West Salem Student Technology Use Agreement.



Did you know your school is a part of the Coulee Region Farm2School program? This program helps connect local farmers with area schools so that fresh, locally grown foods can be served at school meals. In addition, Farm2School encourages children to try new foods & provides opportunities for hands-on nutrition education both in the cafeteria, classrooms and in school gardens. Each month, one local food is selected as the Harvest of the Month. This food is then featured on promotional signage throughout the school, sampled in monthly taste tests featured at cooking classes with area chefs and farmers and of course, served at mealtime! Check out laxf2s.org for family friendly recipes, newsletters and more information!



Reminder from the...



Wisconsin State Law Requirement ~ Please be aware that the Wisconsin State law requirements are:

Grades 6, 7 & 8:

4 DTP/DTaP/DT/Td, 4 Polio, 2 MMR, 3 Hep B, 2 Varicella (Chicken Pox - dates of illness also acceptable) and 1 Tdap

Any student not up to date by the 30th day of school may be excluded from school by state statute. *What you need to do to avoid exclusion is:*

- * Have your child immunized
- * Provide school with month, day and year of the required immunizations

OR

- * Sign a waiver (available from School Nurse office) or on the district website - go to District, District Information and School Health Services than under Important forms on right side or in section 4 of this [form](#).

Medication forms are required for the following:

- * All prescription medications that need to be given during school, including inhalers carried by students (must be signed by the parent and the physician).
- * Any over the counter medications not listed below will need a medication form signed by a parent/guardian.
 - Acetaminophen
 - Ibuprofen
 - Antihistamine

Mylanta/Tums/Roloids

Pepto Bismol (Bismuth Subsalicylate)

Cough drops

Anbesol/Orajel

Normal Saline

Over the counter topical preparations

(anti-itch, anti-fungal, anti-bacterial,

burn gel, barrier cream, vaseline)

insect repellent

hand/body cream/moisturizers/lotions

sunscreen

Contact solution may be used as directed on the bottle

Accuchecks or blood sugars may be performed as deemed necessary for signs/symptoms of low/high blood sugar

Medication forms are available **online** by going to the district website - go to District drop down, District Information and School Health Services than under Important forms on right side at all clinics. We will also have them available at registration. Please bring any medications and completed medication forms to registration. Medication forms and medications can also be dropped off at open house in the nurse's office or main office.

Reminder: ALL over the counter medications require an electronic signature. The school may have a stock supply, but that is not a guarantee. Please check with the school nurse for availability if you anticipate that your child will need medication on a given day.

At registration, the nurses will be available to verify and obtain health information that may be necessary for emergency purposes. Incoming 6th graders need to provide a copy of their updated immunization record if they have not already done so.



"Meet Us in the Middle"





Online Athletic Registration!!

Athletics Registration is part of our school registration process!
Any student planning or even contemplating participating in a sport during the 2023-2024 school year **MUST** complete the athletics portion of our school registration process.

In addition, students must have a valid physical on file with the main office. Physical forms and alternate year cards are available on the West Salem Middle School Athletic webpage.

2024-2025 Sports Information

Students may still sign up for fall sports at the co-curricular table at registration.

ALL athletes are required to have the following on file prior to practice:

- * **WIAA physical card dated on or after April 1, 2023.**
~If physical is dated between 4-1-23 and 3-31-24 an alternate year card is also required
- * **Co-curricular Activity and Eligibility requirements and Code of Conduct (completed as part of online athletic registration)**
- * **Sport parent & athlete agreement (completed as part of online athletic registration)**

Please bring your child's physical card or alternate year card to the co-curricular table at registration. Students will not be allowed to practice until the WIAA physical card (and alternate year card, if required) are on file in the WSMS office and the co-curricular pledge, parent code of conduct pledge, co-curricular registration and WIAA Rules of Eligibility pledge have been completed online.

If your child is in need of a sports physical PLEASE schedule it early as it is harder to get an appointment as the new school year approaches.

ATHLETIC INFORMATION



Fall Sports Practices.....

First day of practice is after the first day of school.

Tuesday, August 27 from 3:30 - 5pm

Football - equipment is provided (helmet, pads, pants) athlete will need plastic molded cleats and a mouth guard.

Volleyball - jersey is provided. Athlete must provide athletic shoes, knee pads and bottoms (all black).

Cross Country - uniform provided. Athlete must provide athletic shoes.

Uniforms - parents wash all uniforms

Away games - athletes ride a school bus to and from the game. The athlete may ride home with a parent after the game but must sign their child out with their coach.

Prior approval by the Principal with an email or note from parent is required if athlete will be riding home with anyone other than parent.

Eligibility - Mid-term, trimester grades and P.A.W.s scores can impact games. (see Student/Parent Handbook pg.34)

Attendance:

A student who has an unexcused absence for any part of the school day will be ineligible to practice and ineligible to compete or participate for that school day.

An unexcused absence on the last day of the school week will cause the student to be ineligible for the entire weekend.

Any participant that is absent from school more than one hour on the day of an activity will be ineligible to compete/participate unless:

1. Absence was due to a school function or a medical appointment. Verification from the physician must be provided upon the student's return to school.
2. Permission for the absence has been granted by the administration.
3. Extenuating circumstances were involved. The building principal or designee will determine the enforcement of the rule.

Schedules will be posted on the middle school athletic page of the district website.

Coaches will also be handing out schedules and other information for individual sports.

7th & 8th Grade Band & Color Guard Camp

This camp is for ALL 7th & 8th Grade students who are registered for band or color guard for this upcoming school year.

This does not include students signed up for 7th Grade Beginner Band.

We will be preparing for our two fall parades and our halftime performance on the 3rd day of school.

There is no special registration for this camp. Camp is held at the Middle School Band Room. Students are to dress comfortably, wearing socks with athletic shoes. **Absolutely no flip-flops, crocs, or sandals.** Please also bring a water bottle.

Camp Times:

Wednesday, August 14 - 12:30-1:30pm - Drumline & Color Guard

Wednesday, August 14 - 1:30-5:00pm - Full Band & Color Guard

Thursday, August 15 - 7:30-8:30am - Drumline & Color Guard

Thursday, August 15 - 8:30am-12noon - Full Band & Color Guard

Friday, August 16 - 8:00am-12noon - Full Band & Color Guard



Upcoming Dates....

**“Band Night” with WSHS Marching Band at Football Game:
Friday, August 30**

~5:30pm ALL Band & Color Guard (wear orange polo, black pants, black socks, black shoes). Band will perform at Halftime of West Salem Varsity Football game.

WS Homecoming Parade: Friday, September 27

~2:00pm ALL Band & Color Guard Report. Students wear “School Spirit” Orange, Black & White (or uniform)

Thursday, September 26 - Torch Light Parade in La Crosse - 7pm

Open House - Tuesday, August 20 - 5:00-6:30pm

Lockers

Each student will receive a street locker and combination at registration. Just a reminder that lockers are only 12" wide so please keep that in mind when purchasing backpacks. All 7th & 8th graders will also receive a physical education locker and combination from their physical education teacher sometime within first or second week of school and are expected to change clothes for class.

Panther Time

Our schedule includes a daily 30 minute class period entitled Panther Time. Panther Time was created from our staff's work with Response to Intervention (RTI). The Panther Time has two components: an intervention block and an extension block. The intervention block is an opportunity for the reading and math instructors to re-instruct on a daily basis in the areas that the student needs further support to understand concepts already taught. It may be related to the current instruction or an area of remediation in order for the student to become more successful within the content area. Students are selected by the grade level teachers and stay in the intervention block until they have met the criteria to exit and then will be placed in the extension block. The extension block is an opportunity to expand upon concepts already within the curriculum.

Assignment Notebooks

5th and 6th graders will receive one assignment notebook at the beginning the school year. All 7th and 8th graders will be using an electronic form of an assignment notebook. Teachers will get them set up during the first week of school.

Skyward Family Access

Skyward Family Access provides a login/password for every user - be it parent or student. Every family member has his/her own Skyward account. It is important that parents use their own login/password and that students use their own login/password. As an example, students cannot add money to their lunch account using their student login/password nor can they see specific messages posted in the message center directly to parents only. At high school level students will be using their own login/password to enter course requests.

It is imperative that parents DO NOT share their access to Skyward with their student(s). At a minimum, parents will be asked to provide enrollment information on-line. Keeping your password private will prevent your student from having access to change that information during the course of the school year.

If you do not know your login/password please contact Janel Lochen in the office at 786-2090 or send an email to lochen.janel@wsalem.k12.wi.us.

RevTrak

Online Student Fees and Meal Plan Payments

The West Salem School District provides parents an easy way to add money to your student's food service account and to pay for school - related fees. Online payments can be made into food service accounts and for various school fees through Skyward Family access. We are contracted with RevTrak, a national credit card payment processor, to provide a secure site for making payments.

Parents can make payments online anytime of the day. If your student's food service balance is low, it only takes a few minutes to add money to it by using your VISA or MasterCard credit or debit card. Payments are made through the student's Skyward Family Access account. A link to Family Access can be found on the school district's website at <http://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us>

To make online payments the parent will need:

1. MasterCard, Discover or VISA (Debit or Credit card) card number and expiration date
2. Skyward Family Access Login and Password

Payments made through Family Access will immediately be posted to the student's food service account. All credit card statements will show the payment has been made to the West Salem School District.

Instructions for Making a Payment

Log in to Skyward Family Access

Select "**Food Service**" or "**Fee Management**" from "General Information menu on the left

- For **Food Service**, view balance and select "**Make Online Payment**"
- For **Fee Management**, select "**Make Online Payment**" and select which fee(s) to apply the payment to by clicking on the corresponding "**Pay Charge**" box

Click on the Update payment amount button

Enter the amount you want to pay, Click on update cart

Enter payment amount and select "**Pay with Vendor**" and follow the steps to finish your transaction

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.

Student Accident Insurance

We wish to emphasize that the School District of West Salem does not provide any type of health or accident insurance for injuries incurred by your child at school. Your personal health and/or dental insurance, homeowner's property insurance, or other insurance carried by you will be your primary safeguard for coverage of accidents.

Note from the Office...

School starts at 7:50! Which means students need to be in their first class at 7:50 when the bell rings!

If your child will be absent from school, please call the office at 786-2090 by 7:50 in the morning. 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**. 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 with any pre-planned absences and we will document it so you will not have to call again the day of the absence. **Thank you for your cooperation in keeping your child's attendance up to date and informing the school of absences in a timely manner.



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 it. In reading, students are expected to read and independent reading book nightly for a minimum of 20 min. 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 of Edmodo.

Newsletters

Middle School newsletters can be found on the district website under the Families tab along the top. 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.