

February 2025



Newsletter

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Letter from Superintendent Ryan Rieber

A Community We Love

As February rolls in, we officially enter the second semester of the school year. This time of growth, opportunity, and reflection is when we continue working together to provide our students with the best educational experiences. While the winter weather might be brisk, February reminds us of the warmth in our community spirit and the exciting happenings throughout our district!

February is filled with history and inspiration, from celebrating Black History Month to commemorating Presidents' Day. It's also the month of love and kindness, reminding us of the importance of connection and gratitude. Abraham Lincoln said, "The best way to predict the future is to create it." Here in West Salem, we're doing just that: creating a bright future for our students and community!

Our winter sports teams are gearing up for the thrilling climax of their seasons as they prepare for post-season

competitions. Our athletes' dedication, teamwork, and passion make us proud every day. Performances are not just on the court or the ice but also the stage. Our show choir is shining brightly during their performance season. Their hard work and incredible talent are on full display, and I encourage everyone to attend an upcoming performance to support our students.

The planning process with our architects has begun, and we hope to break ground early this summer. Conversations are underway regarding the design of the elementary school's new gymnasium. Our high school team has been touring Wisconsin and Minnesota Career and Technology Education programs to gain insight into other programs and facility layouts.

These projects are a testament to our community's commitment to providing opportunities to support our students during and after school hours. I also want to thank community members who are helping envision these projects. It is essential to ensure that these are great educational spaces that mirror the needs of our students now and in the future.

Letter continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

The open enrollment period for the 2025-26 school year is almost here! Families interested in joining the West Salem School District are encouraged to visit our website to learn more and access the online application portal. Open enrollment empowers families to choose the best educational environment for their children, and we are proud to welcome new students and families to our community.

At West Salem, we take pride in our exceptional staff, diverse learning opportunities, and the strong partnership we share with our supportive community. Together, we create a collaborative environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. From innovative programs to extracurriculars that inspire creativity and leadership, our district is committed to helping students reach their full potential. February may

be short, but it's packed with opportunities to connect, celebrate, and plan for the future. Thank you for your continued support of our schools and community as we work together to make a difference every day for our students!

As we embark into the month of February, let's remember to keep things lighthearted. In the spirit of love and laughter, here's a fitting quote for the season. Mother Teresa stated, "Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love." I am thankful for the opportunity to work with and for a community I love!

Stay warm, stay involved, and stay proud to be part of West Salem!

Ryan Rieber
Superintendent



Blood Drive **West Salem High School**

Library
490 N Mark St

Monday, March 3, 2025
8:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: pantherblood to schedule an appointment.

[2011 - Order ID : 052555 - Item ID : 882575 - Qty : 1 of 1 - 244142 - AP6 E - 26 322

RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App

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Calendar of Events February

Athletic Events

Saturday, February 1, 2025

- 9:00am Wrestling: Varsity Invitational vs. Darlington, Lancaster, Lodi, St. Croix Central & Sun Prairie West @ Lodi High School
- 4:00pm Ice Hockey: Girls Varsity Game vs. Hudson @ Hudson Sports & Civic Center

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

- 4:00pm Adapted Sports League: Floor Hockey vs. Logan @ Logan High School
- 5:45pm Basketball: Boys C-Team Game vs. Central @ West Salem Middle School
- 5:45pm Basketball: Boys JV Game vs. Central @ West Salem High School
- 6:00pm Gymnastics: JV/Varsity Meet vs. G-E-T/Mel-Min/CFC & Westby-Viroqua @ Westby High School
- 6:00pm Wrestling: Varsity Triangular vs. Black River Falls & Westby Area High School @ Black River Falls Fieldhouse
- 7:00pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. Central @ West Salem High School
- 7:00pm Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. Black River Falls @ West Salem Panther Den Arena

Thursday, February 6, 2025

- 4:15pm Adapted Sports League: Floor Hockey vs. Central @ West Salem Middle School
- 5:45pm Basketball: Girls JV Game vs. Arcadia @ West Salem High School
- 7:00pm Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Arcadia @ West Salem High School
- 7:00pm Ice Hockey: Girls Varsity Game vs. Chippewa Falls High School @ Panther Den Arena

Friday, February 7, 2025

- 4:00pm Wrestling: Varsity Conference Tournament vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ Westby High School
- 5:45pm Basketball: Boys C-Team/JV Game vs.

Black River Falls @ West Salem High School

Monday, February 10, 2025

- 4:30pm Wrestling: JV Invitational vs. Aquinas, Arcadia, Black River Falls, Brookwood, G-E-T, Holmen, Lancaster, Logan, Onalaska, Sparta, Tomah, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ Holmen High School

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

- 4:15pm Adapted Sports League: Floor Hockey vs. Black River Falls @ West Salem Middle School
- 5:00pm Ice Hockey: Girls JV Game vs. Black River Falls @ Black River Falls High School - Milt Lunda Memorial Arena
- 5:45pm Basketball: Girls JV Game vs. Westby Area High School @ Westby High School
- 5:45pm Basketball: Boys C-Team Game vs. Onalaska @ Onalaska High School Fieldhouse South Gym
- 5:45pm Basketball: Boys JV Game vs. Onalaska @ Onalaska High School Fieldhouse
- 7:00pm Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Westby Area High School @ Westby High School
- 7:00pm Ice Hockey: Girls Varsity Game vs. Black River Falls @ Black River Falls High School - Milt Lunda Memorial Arena
- 7:00pm Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. La Crescent-Hokah @ La Crescent Ice Arena
- 7:15pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. Onalaska @ Onalaska High School

Thursday, February 13, 2025

- 4:15pm Adapted Sports League: Floor Hockey vs. Onalaska @ West Salem Middle School
- 7:00pm Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. Aquinas @ West Salem Panther Den Arena

Friday, February 14, 2025

- 5:45pm Basketball: Boys C-Team/JV Game vs. Arcadia @ Arcadia High School
- 6:00pm Gymnastics: JV/Varsity Meet vs. G-E-T/Mel-Min/CFC & Westby/Viroqua @ Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau High School
- 7:00pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. Arcadia @ Arcadia High School Wanek Center Arena

Calendar of events continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

Saturday, February 15, 2025

- TBD Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Wauwatosa East @ TBD
- 10:00am Wrestling: Varsity Regional vs. Eau Claire Memorial, Holmen, Logan, Marshfield, Onalaska & Tomah/Sparta @ Holmen High School

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

- 5:45pm Basketball: Girls JV Game vs. G-E-T @ Gale-Etrick-Trempealeau High School
- 5:45pm Basketball: Boys C-Team/JV Game vs. Westby Area High School @ Westby High School
- 7:00pm Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. G-E-T @ Gale-Etrick-Trempealeau High School
- 7:00pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. Westby Area High School @ Westby High School

Thursday, February 20, 2025

- 4:15pm Adapted Sports League: Floor Hockey vs. Holmen @ Holmen High School
- 5:45pm Basketball: Girls JV Game vs. Luther @ Luther High School
- 7:00pm Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Luther @ Luther High School

Friday, February 21, 2025

- 5:45pm Basketball: Boys C-Team Game vs. G-E-T @ Gale-Etrick-Trempealeau High School Gym South
- 5:45pm Basketball: Boys JV Game vs. G-E-T @ Gale-Etrick-Trempealeau High School Gym North
- 6:00pm Gymnastics: JV/Varsity Conference Tournament vs. G-E-T/Mel-Min/CFC & Westby/Viroqua @ West Salem High School
- 7:00pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. G-E-T @ Gale-Etrick-Trempealeau High School

Saturday, February 22, 2025

- TBD Wrestling: Varsity Sectionals vs. Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire Memorial, Eau Claire North, Holmen, Hudson, Logan, Marshfield, Menomonie, New Richmond, Onalaska, Regis, River Falls, Sparta, Superior & Tomah @ Eau Claire North High School

Thursday, February 27, 2025

- 5:45pm Basketball: Boys C-Team/JV Game vs. Luther @ Luther High School
- 7:00pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. Luther @ Luther High School

Elementary School Events

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

- 12:20pm Early Release
Students dismissed at 12:20pm
Buses depart at 12:30pm

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

- 1:00- Scholastic Book Fair Open
- 7:00pm
- 3:30- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 7:00pm

Thursday, February 20, 2025

- 1:00- Scholastic Book Fair Open
- 7:00pm
- 3:30- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 7:00pm

Friday, February 21, 2025

- All Day No School-Teacher Inservice

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

- 8:30am Kindergarten to the OEC
Passehl & Grams

Thursday, February 27, 2025

- 8:30am Kindergarten to the OEC
Hickey & Christianson

Friday, February 28, 2025

- 8:30am Kindergarten to the OEC
Wagner & Wheeler

Middle School Events

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

- 12:20pm Early Release
Students dismissed at 12:20pm
Buses depart at 12:30pm

Thursday, February 13, 2025

- 3:30- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 7:00pm

Monday, February 17, 2025

- 3:30- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 7:00pm

School District of West Salem

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

8:00am 7th Grade to the OEC
1/2 of class

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

8:00am 7th Grade to the OEC
1/2 of class

Thursday, February 20, 2025

All Day Winter Wellness Field Trips

Friday, February 21, 2025

All Day No School-Teacher Inservice

High School Events

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

12:20pm Early Release
Students dismissed at 12:20pm
Buses depart at 12:30pm

Thursday, February 20, 2025

All Day End of Progress Period 5

Friday, February 21, 2025

All Day No School-Teacher Inservice

2025-2026

OPEN ENROLLMENT

FEBRUARY 3-APRIL 30, 2025

WS | SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
WEST SALEM

ENROLL NOW



www.bit.ly/WSopenenroll



Amazing Alumni Alert!

Class of 2023 WSHS alum, Madison MacRogers recently had the honor of performing “My Country, Tis of Thee” with the United States Naval Academy Women’s Glee Club for President Carter’s arrival to the US Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Madison was actively involved in our Choir, Show Choir and Drama programs while at WSHS and we are happy to see she has continued to use her talents at the Naval Academy! We are so proud of her and her service to our country!

Do you know of alumni doing amazing things? We’d love to hear about them! Email Samantha Pederson at pederson.samantha@wsalem.k12.wi.us with details and a photo if available. Thanks for helping us celebrate our alumni!



District Announcements



Learning Up North

Twelve of our 7th graders, along with Mr. Baker and Mrs. Olson recently headed north for their annual trip to Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River, WI to learn about forest ecosystems in the winter. Trees for Tomorrow is an environmental education center that has been educating students about natural resources since 1944. Students learned all about animal adaptations, seasonal habits, winter lakes, survival skills, and so much more! There was lots of laughter, falling in the snow and of course a lot to learn! They even had some up close time with some chickadees and got to see the ice harvested for the ice castle that was being built in town. Overall, it was a great trip! This month, they will be taking the skills they learned there to teach the rest of the 7th grade students back at our own school forest. Our high school Ecology Club followed them a few weeks later and we can’t wait to hear about their adventures as well!



School Board Members

- Catherine Griffin, President ~~~~~ 769-1714
- Tom Grosskopf, Vice President ~~~~~ 386-0168
- Erik Peterson, Clerk ~~~~~ 792-5370
- Sean Gavaghan, Treasurer ~~~~~ 797-3585
- Bob Minard, Director ~~~~~ 786-9998
- Bob Gollnik, Director ~~~~~ (612) 720-1852
- Caitlin Wilson, Director ~~~~~ (608) 780-3836

Board meetings are held the second and fourth Monday of every month

District Announcements

Heider Center



Red Corvette - Tribute to Prince

Friday, February 7, 2025

7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$26/\$24/\$10

Red Corvette is the newest Prince tribute act on the scene, but its members have actually been honing that signature Prince sound for over 15 years, and on more than a 1,000 Prince tribute shows! That sound of Funk mixed with a little Rock and a lot of Pop. The band is tight and – in the words of Prince – “Hits like a jack hammer!”



Art Gallery

“The Art of the Needle” by the Coulee Country Chapter of the Embroiders Guild of America

Runs January 14-February 28, 2025

Box Office Hours

Monday & Thursday: 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Open Everyday 1:30-4:00 pm the week before a show

www.heidercenter.org

The Hall Sisters

Thursday, February 27, 2025

7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$26/\$24/\$10

The Hall Sisters have established themselves as one of the up-and-coming acts in the country pop genre. While releasing multiple CDs over the last few years, they have performed at venues such as The Grand Ole Opry, Carnegie Hall, and the Country Music Hall of Fame. Their sound has been described as a combination of the early vibe of Lady A and the soulful harmony of The Carpenters, all blended with the energy of country-pop & a nod to famous sister acts of the past.



West Salem OEC Named Monroe County Educational Tree Farmer of the Year

On Saturday, January 25, the West Salem Outdoor Education Center (OEC) and retired OEC Coordinator John Sullivan were honored for being named the 2024 Monroe County Educational Tree Farm of the Year at the Monroe County Land Stewardship Awards Banquet. This award honors the work both Sullivan and current OEC Coordinator David Neuman do with students to educate them about wildlife, outdoor skills, invasive species management, and outdoor recreation. Thank you to John and David for maintaining the forest, educating students, and sharing this wonderful space with everyone!



Looking for Important Dates?



The district school year calendar, as well as individual building events and athletic events can all be found on our district website. Go to www.wsalem.k12.wi.us and navigate to the top right corner and click on the calendar icon. From here, you can view the school year calendar, Coulee Conference Athletic calendar, Mississippi Valley Athletic calendar, and individual building events.





EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING

Do you have a 3, 4, or 5 year old that is not
already attending school?

Mark your calendar for our Early Childhood Screening!

Friday, February 14, 2025
8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. by appointment
West Salem Elementary School

Staff will perform a play-based developmental screening including hearing
and vision screenings. Staff will also be available to answer questions!

Visit www.wsalem.k12.wi.us to sign up via Google Form, call the ES office at
(608) 786-1662 or email Jordyn Bruette at
bruette.jordyn@wsalem.k12.wi.us

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes January 13, 2025 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Catherine Griffin. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee Courier, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WK.TY, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district website, and district office on January 9, 2025.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Brennon Anderson led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Caitlin Wilson recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson, Tom Grosskopf, Bob Minard, Bob Gollnik, Catherine Griffin, Caitlin Wilson, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance - Administration: Ryan Rieber, Heidi Horton, Justin Jehn, Ben Wopat, Alex Hubing, Cody Braun Alyssa Harlan, and Shawn Handland; Student representative: Brennon Anderson. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr and Jennifer Larson. Excused: Jessa Hickey

Approval of Agenda

S. Gavaghan moved, T. Grosskopf seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Written and Oral Reports

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Superintendent's Collaborative Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

Business Operations Committee - T. Grosskopf reported on the agenda item, selection of a construction manager.

CESA #4 Board of Control - C. Griffin reported on the Board of Control's agenda.

Director of Buildings and Grounds, Scott Johnson, presented information on the events around the emergency purchase of elementary school boiler.

Connection with the Community

Brennon Anderson, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The National Honor Society had their giving tree up for the holiday season. 170 tags were collected for a total of \$6300 in gift cards that were donated to families in need.
2. Last Friday night senior Megan Johnson hosted an Alzheimer's Awareness night during the boys' and girls' basketball doubleheader. This included a bake sale and a miracle minute to raise money. Both the girls' and boys' teams won against Luther.
3. In the boys' basketball game against Verona on January 4th, senior Kyle Hehli hit 1000 career points.
4. Over winter break the wrestling team participated in the annual Bi-State tournament at the La Crosse Center. The team finished 5th out of 25 teams along with 4 wrestlers placing individually in their weight class. There will be a dual against Sparta at the middle school tomorrow night.
5. The show choir teams had their first competition on the 4th at Tomah. The Salem Singations finished 3rd and Vivace finished 6th. Syd Martin and Kaylee Curran earned the show-stopper award.
6. The dance team competed in Kaukauna on Saturday. They placed in the top half with both of their team routines.
7. The semester comes to an end this week at the high school on Friday, and students will start their new schedules along with a CCLR day next Tuesday.

Correspondence -None.

Public Comments - None.

Consent Agenda

E. Peterson moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2024;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendation for Heidi Propson & Janel Lochen as assistant middle school girls' basketball coach, and Lauren Lovely as the head 7th grade girls' basketball coach.
- d. to accept donations from Union State Bank and the La Crosse County Community Contribution Committee for the Nutrition Services Jane Doe Fund, from Compeer Financial, Joshua & Whitney Westbrook and an anonymous donor for the Nutrition Services department to assist families in need over the Christmas break, from the La Crosse County Community Contribution Committee, Cynthia & William Innes, Ledegar Roofing and the West Salem Lions Club for the Random Acts of Kindness; from Compeer Financial for the high school Future Farmers of America; from Duane & Ana Schaper for the Angela Labus Memorial Scholarship Fund; from the Wisconsin State Council Knights of Columbus for the Special Education Department, from Stephen & Deborah Kraus for the Horace Moran Memorial Fund, from Jane Bangsberg for the Elementary School LMC;
- e. to hire Jennifer Larson as the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/School Board;
- f. to approve WIAA co-op agreements for girls hockey, girls wrestling, boys wrestling, boys swim and gymnastics.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Administrators Ryan Rieber, Heidi Horton, Ben Wopat and Alyssa Harlan presented information on the Open Enrollment limits for the 2025-2026 school year for special education and regular education. No action was taken.

S. Gavaghan moved. B. Gollnik seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee's recommendation to contract with Kraus-Anderson as the Construction Manager for the building project.

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to allow Caitlin Wilson to vote as she sees fit at the Delegate Assembly for the 2025 proposals. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Gnftm moved, C. Wilson seconded to approve the hrst reading of policy 8500- Food Services. Motion carried unanimously.

The list of to do items / information requests was reviewed. No action was taken.

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended, as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.

Board Development

High school graduation requirements and Career and Technology Education (CTE) elective option information was shared by High School Principal Justin Jehn and Director of Instruction Alyssa Harlan.

Closed Session

C. Griffin welcomed the motion for closed session: The Board will discuss, consider and, if appropriate, take action pursuant to Wis. Stats § 19.85(1) (a) Deliberating concerning a case which was the subject of any judicial or quasi-judicial trial or hearing before that governmental body; and (f) Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2025

Marie Heider Meeting Room

7:00 p.m.

which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations; and pursuant to Wisconsin Administrative code 39.06 to discuss, consider and take action, if appropriate, regarding the revocation of the Open Enrollment status of a student and to review and discuss confidential pupil records under 118 .125;

and (c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility regarding nonrenewal/renewal, nonextension/extension, and employment of administrators.

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 7:51 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: C. Wilson, Aye; S. Gavaghan, Aye; E. Peterson, Aye; B. Gollnik, Aye; C. Griffin, Aye; T. Grosskopf, Aye; and B. Minard, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

B. Minard moved, B. Gollnik seconded to reconvene into Open Session at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Session

E. Peterson moved, C. Griffin seconded to approve the extension of all administrator contracts, including the superintendent. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to adjourn at 9:11 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Peterson, Clerk

Kicking off the Season with Success!

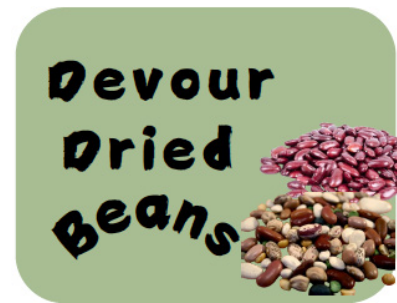
We'd like to give a huge congratulations to both of our West Salem High School show choir groups, Salem Singations and Vivace who started off their competitive seasons with some outstanding performances recently at Tomah! Salem Singations placed 3rd in finals and won the People's Choice Award for their Clue themed show and Vivace placed 6th in finals with their Family Game Night show! Seniors Syd

Martin and Kaylee Curran also earned show stopper awards. Congratulations to all! Their season continues with competitions at Eau Claire Memorial, Fort Atkinson, Monona Grove and Cedar Rapids throughout the month of February.



Did You Know?

Beans are a reliable source of protein, fiber, vitamins, and minerals and are naturally low in saturated fat and cholesterol.



Check out videos and photos of the innovative things happening in your student's classroom at our district Facebook page and Twitter page. Our social media features videos of student activities, teacher features, classroom selfie photos, etc...

Check out our Facebook page
@SchoolDistrictofWestSalem
and
Follow us on X
@WestSalemSD
and Instagram
@schooldistrictofwestsalem



For WSHS athletic events, visit our website:

*click Calendars and then
*click Coulee Conference/Mississippi Valley Conference

You can also set yourself up to receive automatic text or e-mail notifications for any of the activities listed OR subscribe to RSS.



School District of West Salem

“Serve with Passion to Ignite Creativity,
Innovation and Excellence.”



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