

MISSION

The mission of Westside Middle School, as an exemplary model of early adolescent education, is to prepare students to become responsible citizens by providing a quality, success-oriented program through a caring school/family/community partnership.

A Note From The Principal

I hope everyone has an opportunity to enjoy the upcoming spring break and the pending pleasant weather that typically accompanies spring. On March 22nd and 23rd, WMS administered the NeSA Reading test to both 7th and 8th grade students. We used an alternative testing schedule for the Reading tests. There are two more NeSA tests (8th grade Science and both 7th and 8th grade Math) and one more MAP test to be administered. The following are the remaining testing dates:

Science (8th only): April 18th and 19th

Science MAP (7th only): April 18th and 19th

Math (7th and 8th): April 25th and 26th

Please remember to discuss the importance of these tests with your child and make sure they get a good night's sleep and eat a proper breakfast before test days.

Dates to Remember

Monday, April 10, 2017

Thru

Friday, April 14, 2017

Spring Break

NO SCHOOL

WMS Career Day & Field Day

I am excited to announce two upcoming events for WMS students. On May 12th, WMS students will be involved in Career Day and Theme day in morning. During the afternoon, 8th grade students will participate in job shadowing activities, while 7th grade students will participate in a field day on the afternoon of May 12th. 7th grade students participating in Field Day will have an opportunity to participate in various athletic and non-athletic events. It should be a lot of fun for all involved.

Academic Honors Night

We will recognize and honor our students for their individual academic achievements, as well as their accomplishments with academic competition teams during our annual Honors Night on May 15th and May 18th at 7:00 pm. The 7th grade program is scheduled for May 15th and the 8th grade program on May 18th. Invitations to the awards program will be mailed in May. I hope many parents and family members can attend to share in our student's academic achievements. It is a great event!

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Eymann or myself if we can be of any assistance. You can reach me at olsen.russell@westside66.net or Mrs. Eymann at eymann.kimberly@westside66.net, follow our school's webpage at <http://wms.westside66.org>, or follow me on twitter @Principal_Olsen. I hope this April Update finds you and your family healthy and safe. It is a privilege to be the principal at WMS. Please stop by and say hello!

Russ Olsen

Principal

Want to know what is going on? Sign up to receive text messages* from Westside Community Schools. To opt-in, text YES to 68453.

*Charge may apply, depending on carrier.

Notes From the Nurse

Melissa Smith, RN

Measles, Mumps and Rubella Oh My!

The United States has seen an increase in the number of measles cases annually.

In 2014 there were 644 cases reported in 27 states. So far this year, more than 50 cases have been reported and documented with the CDC. Two of those cases were in Nebraska and one case was reported to have visited Omaha in January. I encourage you to vaccinate your children with the MMR to help stop the spread of this preventable disease. Two doses of MMR are required for students entering the 7th grade at WMS and throughout the state of Nebraska. For more information on Measles visit: www.cdc.gov/measles/about/index.html

School Physicals and Immunizations

All 7th graders need a physical on file in the health office before starting school in August. Please turn in your school physical forms ASAP. Please update immunizations as your child receives them. That includes the Tdap, which all 7th graders should receive when they have their 7th grade physical.

Communicable Illness Notes: Your child may return to school when they are fever free for 24 hours without medication. Students should also be free from vomiting for 24 hours before returning to school.

And as always, remind your child to wash his/her hands with soap and water for the full length of the ABC song. In addition, stop the spread of germs by covering your cough!

Nurse's Office: (402) 408-8652

MainOffice: (402) 390-6464

Main OfficeFax: (402) 390-6454

E-mail: smith.melissaa@westside66.net

Notes from the A.D.

Dan Carlson, Athletic Director

Recently student-athletes for girls basketball and wrestling were recognized at a Sports Recognition Event at WMS. Congratulations to all athletes who participated in athletics this winter. Athletes recognized as sportsmanship winners were: Kaitlyn Hanna, Claire Bonnett, Cally Thompson, Cole Payton and Carter Hogan.

The spring athletic season has started, which means 7th and 8th grade track. We have just short of 200 athletes participating in track this spring at WMS. Questions concerning track should be directed to either Dave Baker or Beth Peitzmeier. Mr. Baker can be reached by calling the middle school at 408-8614. Miss Peitzmeier teaches at the high school and can be reached at 343-2700.

Thank you for your support of WMS athletics!

Communication from WMS Community Club

Susan Gass, WMSCC President

Hope everyone has a wonderful Spring Break!

UPCOMING WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CLUB EVENTS

Final Comunity Club meeting Thursday, April 20th | 6:30 pm | Media Center

Career Day

Eighth grade Career Day is May 12. In the morning, students will attend career-related activities at school. The afternoon job shadow, previously arranged by the student and parent/guardian, will enable students to gain first-hand experience in a chosen career.

Job Shadow Permission Forms were distributed to eighth graders in SPARK on April 3. Please talk with your child about career interests in addition to potential job shadow opportunities and contacts. Job Shadow Permission Forms are due to SPARK teachers by April 21.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following students who qualified for the National History Bee Finals.

- Paul Suder (Top 8 Finalist in 8th Grade)
- Virginia Jansen (Top 8 Finalist in 8th Grade)
- Brendan Pennington (Top 8 Finalist in 8th Grade)
- Peter Voller
- Milena Morris (Top 8 Finalist in 7th Grade)

The WMS Poetry Club recently competed in a high school event (yes high school) and did really well. Sponsored by Language Arts teacher John Horton, the Louder Than a Bomb (LTaB) team, didn't win, that was never the point. As they say at LTaB, "The points aren't the point. The point is the poetry." Even though they didn't win, they did place higher than at least 2 high school teams that performed. A playlist of the performers can be seen here:

- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkJVXd2msH4ieoW6yGxOedsI8nWlfdiWe>

School-wide Enrichment Model (SEM)

On Thursday, March 9th, WMS began School-wide Enrichment Model (SEM) Academies. On Thursday's, we shorten the class periods to make time for the Academies to meet. The objective behind SEM Academies is to connect students with other students and adults to study an area in which they are passionate. Similar to the elementary SEM Clusters, the Academies are broad topics ranging from the Arts and Humanities to Engineering. The conclusion of the project is to produce a service or a product that will benefit others. It combines the features of activity clubs, education, and service learning. After three sessions, the SEM Academies are going well and it is exciting to see the number of students involved and engaged in the various offerings. I am very proud of the great work done by the staff (teachers and support staff) with the students by providing them an opportunity to be engaged in a different way at school!

Notes from Attendance

Liz Webb, Attendance Secretary

In the event of an absence or illness, there is no need for you to take the time to contact all of your student's teachers individually. By sending a note or e-mail, or making one call to Ms. Guenther, she will take care of the rest. If you are sending a note, have your student bring the note to Ms. Guenther in the main office first thing in the morning. Your student will receive a gold homework sheet that he or she will take to each of his or her classes, where the teacher will list the homework and initial the sheet. The students then keep the sheet so they know what they have to do while they are away from school. With the gold homework sheet, and Ms. Guenther recording the absence in PowerSchool, all of the teachers will be aware of the absence. As always, contact Ms. Guenther with any questions or concerns regarding your student's attendance.

Direct: (402) 408-8649
Main Office: (402) 390-6464
Main Office Fax: (402) 390-6454
E-mail: webb.elizabeth@westside66.net

April Athletic Calendar

4/18/17	Tues.	Boys Track @ Bellevue Lewis & Clark Girls Track	Bellevue Lewis & Clark WMS	4:45 PM 4:00 PM
4/20/17	Thu.	Boys Track Girls Track	WMS WMS	4:00 PM 4:00 PM
4/25/17	Tues.	Boys Track Kirns Relays Girls Track Kirns Relays	Council Bluffs Athletic Stadium Council Bluffs Athletic Stadium	3:45 PM 3:45 PM

April Calendar

4/10/17	Mon.	Spring Break - NO SCHOOL	All Levels	
4/11/17	Tues.	Spring Break - NO SCHOOL	All Levels	
4/12/17	Wed.	Spring Break - NO SCHOOL	All Levels	
4/13/17	Thurs.	Spring Break - NO SCHOOL	All Levels	
4/14/17	Fri.	Spring Break - NO SCHOOL	All Levels	
4/21/17	Fri	Spring Dance	WMS	7:00 PM

The Westside Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, age, national origin or disability. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Kami Jessop, Director of Special Services, 390-2110.