

## 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.

## Dates to Remember

### School Begins Wednesday, August 10, 2016

7th grade Only: 8:00 am-  
12:00 pm

School buses will run their normal times for the morning run; however, only the 7th grade students will be on those buses. Lunch will be served for 7th grade.

The buses will return the 7th grade students home between 12:15 - 12:30 pm.

### August 11th, 2016

School resumes for both 7th and 8th grade students

8:00 am - 3:22 pm

## A Note From The Principal

Another summer is quickly passing by and school will be starting around the corner and I am full of excitement! Some of my fondest memories revolve around the start of a new school year. As a child I would get excited for my new classmates, my new teachers, schedule, crayons, and big pencils. Even in adulthood, there is something special about August.

### Curriculum Nights at WMS

During the curriculum nights (August 18 th and 22 nd ), we will host our version of a “Club Fair” in the cafeteria. There will be stations (athletics, fine arts, clubs, academic competition teams, etc.) set up in the cafeteria and sponsors will be available to answer questions. Although this is an optional event prior to the Curriculum Night events, it will be a great opportunity to find out what WMS has to offer!

### New Staff

In addition to all of the new students, we have several new additions that we want to welcome to Westside Middle School. The following teachers will be joining the middle school staff this year: Mikayla Baker (transfer from WHS) will be an 8 th grade Language Arts teacher; Jenn Cramer-Brink (transfer from Prairie Lane) will be a Resource teacher; Nick Djernes (transfer from Westgate/Loveland) will be our new music teacher; Jennifer Dowd (transfer from Prairie Lane) will be a 7 th grade Language Arts teacher; Tina King (transfer from Loveland) will be a Resource teacher; Abbey Painter (transfer from Westgate) will be our new Speech Language Pathologist; Ian Peterson will be a new Science teacher; Jack Sortino will be a new 8 th grade Math teacher; and Keery Wolf (transfer from Sunset Hills) will be a Resource teacher . I am pleased to welcome the new staff and am excited about the energy they will bring to our students!

Educators are responsible as guardians for your son or daughter when he or she is at school. We take great pride and care in this responsibility. Your son or daughter’s safety, well-being, and education is key to our success. Please keep open lines of communication with the school when you have concerns or questions. Open communication can usually prevent small concerns from becoming big ones. Your child’s teacher and/or counselor are great first contacts. 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](mailto:olsen.russell@westside66.net) or Mrs. Eymann at [eymann.kimberly@westside66.net](mailto:eymann.kimberly@westside66.net), follow our school’s webpage at <http://wms.westside66.org>, or follow me on twitter @Principal\_Olsen. If you have questions or concerns about your child, please contact us. I hope everyone had a safe and relaxing summer and I’m looking forward working with each of you. It is a privilege to be the principal at WMS. Please stop by and say hello!

Russ Olsen  
Principal

## Please Save the Date for WMS Curriculum Nights

WMS is offering two curriculum nights for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum night is August 18<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum night is August 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will offer an open house in the Cafeteria with information regarding all of our extra-curricular offerings (clubs, academic competition teams, athletics, and intramurals, etc.) beginning at 5:30 p.m. followed by a short Principal's presentation in the Performing Arts Center at 6:00 p.m. At approximately 6:30 p.m. parents will have the opportunity to move throughout the building, using the remaining time to visit with teachers and view classrooms.

### Traffic

During the first few weeks of school, traffic in and around WMS can be very confusing and frustrating at times. Here are a few tips to help with the transition:

Before school, students are expected to enter the building through the Performing Arts Center (PAC) doors on the south side the building. Please use the entire length of the drop off lane rather than directly in front of the entrance. It is OK for middle school students to exercise their legs by walking a bit farther. This will help reduce the amount of back-up on Alpine Drive. Additionally, please drop students by the curb rather than the passing lane. This will allow other drivers to pass, and it is safer for pedestrians.

After school, Arbor Street is a one-way street for three blocks, from 86<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue. In an effort to keep traffic flowing, please use a rolling technique until your student is picked up. Traffic can become congested if vehicles are stopped in the passing lane. This is not safe for pedestrians, and it causes back up of buses and other parents.

## PROPER SCHOOL DRESS

In order to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning, all students at Westside Middle School will follow the regulations below. In addition, WMS administrators will make final decisions regarding dress code issues that are disruptive to the educational environment, but not specifically noted in these guidelines. WMS dress code applies to students both during the school day and at any school sponsored activities.

### TOPS:

Any shirt or blouse worn to school should completely cover the back, top of shoulders, and stomach. Tank tops for boys or girls are not acceptable if they are worn as a stand alone shirt. Any top that allows the midriff, cleavage, or undergarments to be exposed is unacceptable. The following items are unacceptable: see-through blouses or shirts, tube tops or crop tops, halter-tops, and spaghetti straps. Students must leave heavy winter coats, long overcoats, trench coats, and other jackets in their lockers between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:22 p.m.

### PANTS, SHORTS, SKIRTS:

All shorts and skirts must be appropriate length, no shorter than mid-thigh. A great way to determine if shorts are acceptable for school is to place arms at the sides and relax them. The finger tips naturally stop just about mid thigh. If the shorts are shorter than the finger tips, then they are not acceptable to wear to school. In addition, the shorts should have pockets and not be made out of some kind of stretchy material such as spandex. All pants, shorts, and skirts must be worn no lower than the hips; no sagging is permitted. All shorts must be worn at the hips so underwear cannot be seen. Sleepwear, such as pajama bottoms, are not acceptable at school.

### LEGGINGS:

Leggings are fashionable, trendy and can be worn at school if there is some kind of additional clothing covering the waist at least to mid thigh. Leggings for boys or girls will not be acceptable as a stand alone pant.

### FOOTWEAR:

Appropriate shoes must be worn at all times. Slippers are unacceptable footwear.

### ACCESSORIES:

Hats, caps, bandanas, hair picks, sunglasses, visors, and sweatbands must be placed in lockers during the school day. Backpacks and other book bags must also be stored in lockers between 8:00 a.m. and 3:22 p.m. For safety reasons, chains, dog collars, or sharp objects are not to be worn to school.

### OFFENSIVE DRESS:

Clothing or other personal items that are racist, sexist, or promote drugs/alcohol/tobacco are not permitted. Clothing which contains violent, obscene, offensive, or suggestive words, images, or language is not permitted. Gang-related symbols worn, written, carried, displayed or communicated will not be tolerated.

Any student wearing clothing that violates the dress code, disrupts the learning atmosphere or is deemed inappropriate may be asked to go home and return to school properly dressed.

Students who do not follow the above expectations will be dealt with on an individual basis. Any school time missed due to correcting dress code violations may be required to be made up after school.

# 2016-2017 Bookstore Prices

The following items are available in the WMS Bookstore. Students may purchase these items during the school day with a pass from their teacher. The Bookstore hours are 9:00 am - 2:30 pm.

ITEMS	PRICES (EACH)
Book Sox (Regular)	\$1.00
Book Sox (Large)	\$2.00
Headphones (Earbuds)	\$2.00
Flash Drives (Tech Support M-5)	\$7.00
CD-R (with case)	\$0.50
Eraser	\$0.25
Eraser (pencil topper)	\$0.10
Folder (2 pocket)	\$0.25
Folder (with brads)	\$0.25
Index Cards (pack of 25)	\$0.25
Index Cards (pack of 100)	\$0.25
Kleenex (Pocket Pack)	\$0.25
Pencil Lead Refill	\$0.25
Notebook Dividers	\$1.00
Notebook (Composition)	\$1.00
Notebook (Science)	\$2.00
Notebook (Mini)	\$0.25
Notebook (Spiral)	\$0.50
Oak Tag (9x12)	\$0.25
Oak Tag (12x18)	\$0.25
Graph Paper (35 sheets)	\$0.25
Lined Paper (35 sheets)	\$0.25
Pencil #2	\$0.25
Pencils (Colored)	\$1.00
Pencils (Mechanical)	\$0.50
Pens	\$0.25
Poster Board (22x28)	\$0.50
Report Covers	\$0.25
Rings (Metal)	\$0.25
Ruler (Plastic)	\$0.25

## Westside Boys & Girls Club of Omaha

Westside Middle School students will have the opportunity to enroll in this afterschool program starting August 10th. The Westside Boys & Girls Club of Omaha is located at 1414 Robertson Drive (the Westbrook building). The Boys & Girls Club provides after school programs in a safe and positive environment. Programs offered include: Homework Help and Tutoring, Career Exploration, Leadership Development, Computers, Sports, Arts, Recreation and lots more!

Hours of operation: Monday - Friday from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. during regular District 66 school days. The Club is also open from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. on District 66 early release days as well 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. on school vacation days, with an early option from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for an additional fee. Finally, the club is also open on snow days from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Club membership is only \$30 per calendar year and is open to youth ages 6-18. Membership includes transportation for Middle School students to Westbrook after school every day and an evening meal.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Olsen at the Middle School or the Boys & Girls Club at (402) 932-6477 or [westside.bgcoma-ha.org](http://westside.bgcoma-ha.org)

## **Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)**

The PPRA gives parents certain rights regarding surveys given to students and the collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

**Consent** before students are required to submit to a survey that asks questions about one or more of the following protected areas (protected information survey) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family
3. Sexual behavior or attitudes
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility

### **Receive notice and opportunity to opt a student out of:**

1. Any other protected information survey (see 8 areas listed above - regardless of funding).
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the District or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision or scoliosis screening, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under Nebraska law.
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

### **Inspect** upon request and before distribution or use:

1. Protected information surveys.
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes.
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

The District will notify parents of specific or approximate dates when surveys are to be given. These rights transfer to the student at age 18 or upon emancipation under Nebraska law.

The District has adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights - See Board of Education Policies 2235 and 5220 and regulations thereto. These may be accessed on the District's website at [www.westside66.org](http://www.westside66.org).

This Notification of Rights Under PPRA will be provided directly to parents at least annually at the start of each school year (and after any substantive changes to any applicable Board Policies). It will also appear on the District's website. Questions or concerns about the PPRA may be directed to the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment at (402) 390-2127. Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

# Student Records

The Westside Community Schools Annual Notification of Rights regarding student records, privacy, and related rights is published on the District's website— [www.westside66.org](http://www.westside66.org). A printed copy may also be obtained by contacting the ABC Building at 402-390-2100. The Annual Notification contains information on many important items, including, but not limited to, the use and disclosure of student's educational records, access to records, information that may be disclosed without parental consent "Directory Information" and opting-out of disclosure of "Directory Information."

The following is a summary only of some of the information contained in the Annual Notification of Rights regarding student records, privacy, and related rights:

What is "Directory Information" at Westside Community Schools?

Student's name, address and telephone listing

Electronic mail address

Photographs including use of photographs of students in District publications, the District's websites, and District Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)

Video/film of student

Date and place of birth

Major field of study

Dates of attendance and grade level

Participation in officially recognized activities and sports

Weight and height of members of athletic teams

Degrees, honors, and awards received

The most recent educational agency or institution attended

The District includes Directory Information from your child's education records in school publications, such as a playbill, showing a student's role in a drama production, the annual yearbook, the District's website, calendars, newsletters, and other District publications, honor roll or other recognition lists, graduation programs, and sports activity sheets. Directory information can also be disclosed to outside organizations, such as (but not limited to) those that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. Parents may request to opt out of any or all of Directory Information. In order to do so, you must notify the District by contacting your elementary school principal and obtaining and submitting a written Denial of Permission form.

## Communication from WMS Community Club

*Susan Gass, WMSCC President*

Thank you to those who stopped by the WMSCC tables during orientation—if you were unable to attend, all relevant forms are attached. Simply drop at office or in the mail as noted on the form.

We have some great logo wear this year! This is our only fundraiser so if you need some clothing to show Westside pride – now is the time. We are selling short and long sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, socks and bags. If you missed getting the gear, there is still time. We will also have table set up to order/purchase at Curriculum Nights.

We would love to see you at our first WMSCC meeting on Thursday, August 25 th . We will meet in the library at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the happening at WMS and provide an overview of the year.

Susan Gass

## Westside Connection Show Choir 2016-2017

Auditions for the award winning Westside Connection will be held in clinic form. Learning clinics will be held beginning Monday, August 22nd through Friday, August 26th at 7:00 a.m. in the vocal music room. Students will be taught a brief song and dance. During this clinic students will be given the opportunity to learn and practice. Attendance will not be taken.

Auditions for Westside Connection will be held on Saturday, August 27th at WMS in the vocal music room between 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Students will sign up in groups of 3-4 for a 15 minute time slot. Students will be required to perform the song and dance learned with their small group AND sing "My Country Tis of Thee" a Capella as a solo. Students must audition on August 27th, 2016. These are the only dates for auditions and clinics. Students interested in the group MUST be available on these dates! There will be a parent meeting on Thursday, September 1, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the vocal music room.

Any WMS student enrolled in vocal music/chorus, band/chorus, or strings/chorus may audition for this group. 7th grade students must be enrolled in Music 7, band/music, strings/music, band or strings in order to audition. Some 7th graders may not have Music 7 until second semester, which is acceptable. 7th grade students not enrolled in any sort of music course MUST make an enrollment change prior to auditions. This is much easier to do BEFORE school begins. 8th grade students must be enrolled in Chorus 8, band/chorus or strings/chorus before auditions on Saturday, August 27th.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Nick Djernes at (402) 390-6464 or e-mail [djernes.nicholas@westside66.net](mailto:djernes.nicholas@westside66.net) Thank you and good luck!

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## IMPORTANT! UPDATE IN MEDICATION POLICY FOR 2016-2017!!!!

When a non-prescription medication, including cough drops, is to be given for more than 2 weeks, the medication authorization form must be signed by your health care provider.

What does this mean? The school health offices in the Westside School District can no longer keep non-prescription medication with a parent signature alone for more than a two week period. After two weeks a parent must either:

1. Pick up the medication from the health office, or it will be disposed of accordingly.
2. Fill out another Medication Authorization form with parental signature for an additional 2 weeks and so on.
3. Obtain health care provider signature for the non-prescription medication that needs to remain in the health office for greater than 2 weeks. Your health care provider can authorize the non-prescription medication be administered if needed for the length of the academic year.

There are no updates for prescription medication. Those require health care provider and parental signatures.

As a reminder, ALL medication must be in the original bottle with the original label stating the dose, student name, times to be given and all other pertinent information.

# August Athletic Calendar

8/11/16	Thurs.	Sports Physicals	WMS Cafeteria	6:00 - 8:00 PM
8/15/16	Mon.	Sports Physicals	WMS Cafeteria	6:00 - 8:00 PM

## Who Needs A Physical?

Any 8th grade student that wants to go out for a sport **MUST** have a physical on file in the athletic director's office **BEFORE** they will be able to participate in any practices or games.

Any high school athlete that needs a physical may also attend.

WHERE: WMS cafeteria. Please enter through the PAC entrance.

COST: \$30.00

The doctors have asked that all of the female athletes wear either a sports bra or a swimsuit top under their T-shirt

## August Calendar

8/10/16	Wed.	First Day of School 7th grade ONLY	All Levels WMS	8:00 - 12:00 PM
8/11/16	Thurs.	First Day of School for 8th grade	WMS	8:00 - 3:22 PM
8/18/16	Thurs.	7th Grade Curriculum Night	WMS	5:30 - 8:00 PM
8/22/16	Mon.	8th Grade Curriculum Night	WMS	5:30 - 8:00 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.*