

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

Parent-Teacher
Conferences

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2017

5:00 - 9:00 PM and

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017

5:00 - 9:00 PM

Intersession

Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017
and

Friday, Feb. 17, 2017

NO SCHOOL

Monday, February 20, 2017

President's Day

NO SCHOOL

A Note From The Principal

I am excited to update you about our recent proactive efforts to decrease incidents of bullying and increase cultural awareness as we continue to work toward creating a safe and caring, culture of inclusion for students and staff. At WMS, we believe that to do well in school, students need to be comfortable with who they are and feel physically and emotionally safe. In this effort to create a safe and caring culture, we have partnered with two outstanding entities, Youth Frontiers and the Anti-Defamation League to help make our school a model of inclusion.

The week of January 16 th our 7 th grade students participated in their first Courage Retreat at the Westside Community Conference Center. The goal for the Courage Retreat was to help our students realize the importance of respecting themselves and others. One step towards accomplishing this goal was by taking each 7 th grade team and dividing it into many smaller groups of 8. The smaller groups, facilitated by a group leader, allowed for an intimate and safe environment to get to know their classmates and have meaningful dialogue about their individual lives at WMS. The day culminated in a very powerful activity in which students voluntarily shared their pledge of courage in front of their peers. For example, "My act of courage is to be more focused at school, because I've been distracting my classmates." At first, I wasn't sure how many students would be willing to share such a personal act of courage. I was amazed at the level of sincerity and openness displayed by the students. The feedback I received from the students and the staff about the merits of the Courage Retreat was very positive and overall, I'd say the series of retreats were a successful start to enhancing the positive student culture at WMS.

Secondly, we will continue to support the No Place for Hate campaign sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League. In order to attain the status of a No Place for Hate School, there are several steps schools need to take and accomplish throughout the school year. One of the activities is to have our students and staff, sign the Resolution of Respect towards others. Additionally, we will select student leaders to participate in a "Leadership Academy" to help design anti-bias school activities and positively influence the student body. If you would like to assist in the No Place for Hate Campaign or would simply like more information, please contact counselor Doug Hauserman. In a school as diversely populated as WMS, our students deserve to have the best learning experience possible and we can set students up for success by helping them develop skills of understanding that will help them in any situation.

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 February 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

Notes From the Nurse

Melissa Smith, RN

Students requiring exclusion from or modification of PE are required to have a note from a physician outlining these restrictions.

Students are to be fever-free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school after an illness. Students should also be free from vomiting for 24 hours before returning to school.

It is not too late to get your flu shot! A common myth is that the flu shot can cause someone to contract the flu. This is false. For further study about the myths surrounding the flu shot, visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/misconceptions.htm>.

Remember that the most effective way of reducing the spread of illness is washing hands with soap and water. Using alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol also helps reduce the spread of illness.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Nurse's Office: (402) 408-8652 Main Office: (402) 390-6464 Main Office Fax: (402) 390-6454

E-mail: smith.melissaa@westside66.net

Phone (402) 408-8652

Fax (402) 390-6454

Notes from the A.D.

Dan Carlson, Athletic Director

Wrestling and girls basketball seasons are under way. Practices are held Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Team and individual pictures for these teams will be taken Friday, February 10th. Picture packets will be sent home during that week. The varsity seasons will wrap up the first week of March. Please contact your child's coach if you have any questions or concerns about their participation.

The annual WMS Wrestling Invitational will be held on Saturday, March 4th. This year we are expecting over 250 wrestlers from 16 different schools. Admission for the tournament is \$5 for adults and \$1 for students.

Dan Carlson

Athletic Director

Parent/teacher conference schedule

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Last names A-F 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Last names G-L 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Last names M-R 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Last names S-Z 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Last names S-Z 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Last names M-R 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Last names G-L 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Last names A-F 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Our goal is 100% attendance, and we cannot do it without you! We sincerely urge you and your students to attend and visit each of their teachers.

Quarter grades are very important, as they will give your student and you an indication of his or her progress at mid-semester. These grades, however, are not part of the student's permanent record. It is very important, therefore, to identify why a particular grade was given and what the student needs to do if the grade is not consistent with his or her ability.

When possible, please attend conferences using the suggested schedule above. We have divided the schedule to avoid long lines and conflicts with the high school schedule. Please limit your conference to no more than five minutes. If you need additional time, please schedule another meeting with the teacher(s). Most seventh grade teachers will be in the west gym, and most of the eighth grade teachers will be in east gym. Counselors and administrators will be present, so please introduce yourself.

Communication from WMS Community Club

Susan Gass, WMSCC President

February and March will be busy months for the community club.

*It is that time again (believe it or not) for conferences. We will provide a meal and snacks for the teachers on February 14 and 15.

*March 7 is the next athletic banquet where we provide cookies and drinks. Many thanks for Lisa Humphrey for coordinating these for the CC.

*Staff appreciation week is coming up. The date isn't set quite yet but we will keep you posted. Thanks to Nicole Kelley for taking on this project.

*Sixth grade orientation nights are coming up in February and March. Thanks to Katie Henningsen, Angie Thorell and Sarah Beutler for helping sell logowear and get information out about the WMSCC.

9 th Grade Registration

High School registration for our current 8 th graders has begun! It started on Friday, Jan 20, when the WHS counselors came to the Middle School to discuss how module scheduling works, high school graduation requirements, and many other topics.

On Monday, Jan 23, each 8 th grader was given a Course Planning Guide. Along with this guide, students were given a sheet that lists all the classes available to Freshman. Students can then find the class in the handbook and read a description of the class, how many mods it is, group number, and other information.

This week the students were simply being asked to start thinking about which classes they would like to take and to jot down any questions they have. On Monday, Jan 30, WHS is hosting an orientation for incoming 9 th graders. Department Heads and others will be available to answer any questions they have about classes or high school.

Starting Tuesday, Jan 31, the WMS counselors will be working closely with students to select classes. Counselors will start with a group lesson in the classroom to go over required classes, and to start filling in the 9 th Grade Tentative Schedule on page 14 of the Course Planning Guide. We would like this Tentative Schedule signed by all parents as communication to the counselors that they provide input and agree with the classes being requested. We will also show students how to enter their requests online.

The counselors will be in the classroom on the following dates:

Team A – Monday, Feb 6

Team B – Friday, Feb 10

Team C – Tuesday, Feb 7

Team D – Tuesday, Jan 31

Once the group lessons have finished, WMS Counselors will meet 1 on 1 with each student to discuss their schedule. Students should have some electives in mind prior to the classroom lesson and again, parents are should sign the tentative schedule before the child meets with their counselor 1 on 1. On Monday, March 6, WHS Counselors will come to the Middle School and confirm all our hard work. If you have any registration questions, please contact your child's counselor:

Julie Herink, Last Name A-G @402-408- 8618;
herink.julie@westside66.net

Doug Hauserman, Last Name H-N @ 402-408- 8577;
hauserman.douglas@westside66.net

Mike McCann, Last Name O-Z @ 402-408- 8591;
mccann.michael@westside66.net

Rotary Honor Roll Application

Every year, WMS partners with the Rotary Club of Omaha in recognizing the top 5% of 8th grade students in the Metro area. The objective of the 8th Grade Rotary Honor Roll is to honor outstanding achievement in each of these four categories: Leadership, Character, Scholarship and Presence. This school year, WMS will select approximately 25 students to represent our school at a luncheon in May. The application process begins January 27th and closes at midnight February 6th. Students may complete their online application process by using this web address:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WMS_2017_Rotary_Application

February Athletic Calendar

2/02/17	Thurs.	Reserve Girls BBall vs. Liberty MS	WMS	4:00 PM
2/03/17	Fri.	7/8 Wrestling Triangular	WMS	4:00 PM
2/06/17	Mon.	Reserve Girls BBall vs. Ralston MS	Ralston MS	4:00 PM
2/07/17	Tues.	7/8 Wrestling vs Liberty & Mission MS	Mission MS	4:15 PM
		V/JV Girls BBall vs. Bellevue Mission MS	WMS	4:00 PM
		Reserve Girls BBall vs. C.B. Wilson MS	WMS	4:00 PM
2/18/17	Sat.	Reserve Girls BBall Tournament	Ralston MS	8:00 AM
2/21/17	Tues.	7/8 Wrestling vs LaVista Jr. High	LaVista Jr. High	4:00 PM
		V/JV Girls BBall vs. Bellevue Lewis & Clark MS	Bellevue Lewis & Clark	4:15 PM
2/23/17	Thurs.	V/JV Girls BBall vs. Beadle MS	WMS	4:00 PM
		Reserve Girls BBall vs. LaVista Jr. High	LaVista Jr. High	4:00 PM
2/24/17	Fri.	Reserve Girls BBall vs. Beadle MS	WMS	4:00 PM
2/25/17	Sat.	Wrestling JV Invitational	Mission MS	8:00 AM
2/27/17	Mon.	Wrestling JV Invite	Beadle MS	3:35 PM

February Calendar

2/06/17	Mon.	WMS Don and Millies night	Don and Millies	4-9:00 PM
2/07/17	Tues.	WMS/WHS Strings Concert	WHS	7:00 PM
2/14/17	Tues.	Parent- Teacher Conferences	WMS	5:00 - 9:00 PM
2/15/17	Tues.	Parent- Teacher Conferences	WMS	5:00 - 9:00 PM
2/16/17	Thurs.	Intersession - NO SCHOOL	ALL LEVELS	
2/17/17	Fri.	Intersession - NO SCHOOL	ALL LEVELS	
2/20/17	Mon.	Professional Development Day NO SCHOOL	ALL LEVELS	
2/25/17	Sat.	Battle of the Show Choirs	WMS	8:00 AM

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.