

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

Sunday, March 12, 2017

Daylight Saving Time
Begins

Spring forward!

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.

A Note From The Principal

March is one of my favorite months of the year. The weather starts to change, the snow begins to melt, and we can really begin to see measurable changes in our students. Other than from birth to age three, 10 to 15 year olds are experiencing the most rapid, significant changes of their lives changes that are physical, social, emotional, and cognitive in nature. March is designated as Middle Level Education Month. This month is set aside to remind us why it is so important to provide students in the middle grades with the support they need to succeed both academically and personally. The skills, habits, and values established during this time of early adolescence will have a critical, life long influence that can directly impact your child's chances for a successful and healthy future.

The Association for Middle Level Education is the parent organization in which we use as a resource to model our school. Successful middle school programs follow four attributes: developmentally responsive, challenging, empowering, and equitable. These four essential attributes of successful middle level education can be achieved when aligned with the following 16 characteristics. AMLE's 16 characteristics of successful middle schools are essentially the cornerstone of what we do and serve as a framework in guiding our school.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Characteristics

- Educators value young adolescents and are prepared to teach them.
- Students and teachers are engaged in active, purposeful learning.
- Curriculum is challenging, exploratory, integrative, and relevant.
- Educators use multiple learning and teaching approaches.
- Varied and ongoing assessments advance learning as well as measure it.

Leadership and Organization Characteristics

- A shared vision developed by all stakeholders guides every decision.
- Leaders are committed to and knowledgeable about this age group, educational research, and best practices.
- Leaders demonstrate courage and collaboration.
- Ongoing professional development reflects best educational practices.
- Organizational structures foster purposeful learning and meaningful relationships.

Culture and Community Characteristics

- The school environment is inviting, safe, inclusive, and supportive of all.
- Every student's academic and personal development is guided by an adult advocate.
- Comprehensive guidance and support services meet the needs of young adolescents.
- Health and wellness are supported in curricula, school-wide programs, and related policies.
- The school actively involves families in the education of their children.
- The school includes community and business partners.

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 March 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

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 their 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

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E-mail: smith.melissaa@westside66.net

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Notes from the A.D.

Dan Carlson, Athletic Director

Successful seasons of wrestling and girls' basketball are nearing completion. Parents, athletes, and coaches will celebrate the efforts of everyone involved in these sports on Thursday, March 9th at 5:00 p.m. in the WMS cafeteria. Please make every attempt to join us! 7th/8th Grade Girls' Track: On Thursday, March 2nd WMS track coaches are holding an informational meeting for all student athletes interested in participating in girls track at WMS. Head Track coach for the girls is Beth Peitzmeier. 7th/8th Grade Boys' Track: Short meetings and sign-up for boys interested in participating in track this spring at WMS will take place right after school on Thursday, March 9th and Friday, March 10th. Boys only need to attend one of the dates. Head Track coach for the boys is Dave Baker. Track practice for both teams will begin Monday, March 13th. Practices will be held Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 3:30 - 5:00 throughout the track season.

All 8th grade participants need to have a current sports physical on file prior to the first day of practice. If this is the first sport that a student-athlete has participated in at WMS this year, the athletic participation fee needs to be taken care of before the first track meet in April. For athletic schedules please visit www.westside66.org, and go to the middle school athletics schedule link.

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 Mrs. Webb, she will take care of the rest.

If you know your student will be absent, you may send a note in advance. Have your student bring the note to Mrs. Webb 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. The teacher will list the homework and initial the sheet. 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 Mrs. Webb recording the absence in PowerSchool, all of the teachers will be aware of the absence. As always, contact Mrs. Webb with any questions or concerns regarding your student's attendance.

Attendance: (402) 390-6484

Direct: (402) 408-8649

Main Office: (402) 390-6464

Main Office Fax: (402) 390-6454

E-mail: webb.elizabeth@westside66.net

WMS Musical

Westside Middle School proudly presents Loserville the Musical! It's 1971, and the geeks are about to inherit the earth in this pop-rock fantasy. Misfit computer geek, Michael Dork, and his friends are about to change the world. It's just that no one knows it yet. Michael has also discovered Holly, a prospect (almost) as exciting as his love of binary. If only he had the courage to talk to her!

Showtimes: Thursday, March 30th, Friday, March 31st and Saturday, April 1st at 7 pm. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and kids 5 and under are free.

Curriculum News

Lance Mosier, Social Studies Department Chairperson

From the Social Studies department

It has been an exciting year for students in the Social Studies department at WMS. This year we have been focusing on using primary source documents to help students explore history as a historian does by asking questions and seeking possible conclusions based on what the historical evidence tells us. Using reading strategies and historical analysis skills, we have been working as a department on ways for students to engage in our curriculum.

Seventh grade students have had a busy year learning about World History. Students have been learning about topics such as the fall of the Roman Empire, the Middle Ages, and Mesoamerican and South American Civilizations. Students have just recently learned about the Renaissance and the Age of Exploration which was capped off with a History Fair exposition of student projects. Students are currently learning about Colonization of the Americas and will be wrapping up their year learning about the American Revolution and the United States Constitution.

Eighth grade students have been engaged throughout the year in a wide variety of activities and lessons to explore American history. Students have learned about American movement west, the American Civil War, the Great Wave immigration that occurred toward the end of the 19th Century, the impact the Industrial Revolution had on the United States, and the reforms achieved during the Progressive Era as America moved into the modern century. For the remainder of the year we will be discussing major 20th century American history and will focus on World War II, the Cold War, and the Civil Rights Movement.

March Athletic Calendar

3/04/17	Sat.	Wrestling Invite	WMS	9:00 AM
3/09/17	Thurs.	Athletic Awards Night	WMS	5:00 PM

March Calendar

3/06/17	Mon.	WMS Don and Millies night	Don and Millies	4-9:00 PM
3/09/17	Thurs.	Spring Pictures	WMS	
3/14/17	Tues.	7th Grade Band-o-rama	WHS	7:00 PM
3/30/17	Thurs.	Loserville Musical	WMS-PAC	7:00 PM
3/31/17	Fri.	Loserville Musical	WMS-PAC	7:00 PM
4/01/17	Sat.	Loserville Musical	WMS-PAC	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.