

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

Thursday, November 24,
2016

Thanksgiving Day

NO SCHOOL

Friday, November 25, 2016

Thanksgiving Break

NO SCHOOL

A Note From The Principal

As October comes to a close and November begins, my thoughts drift to many fond memories of family and friends celebrating Thanksgiving. I am thankful for how the school year has unfolded thus far. Every day I can see the teachers working hard, committing themselves to helping students to be engaged in the learning process. Parents are making the commitment for students to get any extra assistance both at home and school. The result of this commitment is higher levels of learning from our students. Westside is a special place and the commitment to student success on all levels constantly reminds me of how thankful I am to be part of this district.

Conferences

Thank you to all parents who were able to attend parent teacher conferences. We had an excellent turn out, and our teachers appreciate the chance to work together with parents to help students grow and experience success. Please remember that grades are only one indication of your son or daughter's progress.

Guidance

Our Guidance Department recently coordinated the Gallup Student Poll as part of a District-Wide effort to measure hope, engagement, and well-being. Administered during SPARK, the survey is part of our Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) focused on literacy, and the relationship between student engagement and academic success. Armed with this new and ongoing research, parents and school districts can pursue student success goals with proven and actionable data that can lead to significant improvements. For more information about the survey, please go to <http://www.gallupstudentpoll.com>.

Helping Others

The Westside Community Council is working with WCS to help stock the Westside Clothing Closet. The Westside Clothing Closet helps district families by providing them with clothing free of charge. Appropriate donations are gently used fleece jackets, sweatshirts and new undergarments and socks in all sizes. It will start Monday, October 31 st and end Friday, November 11th. Donations can be dropped off directly at your local Westside School.

The WMS Student Council is sponsoring a canned Food Drive and will run from November 7th -18th. Prizes will be awarded to the top donating SPARKs at both grade levels.

Construction Update

Phase I of renovating WMS is nearing completion. The new addition on the southeast side of the building is coming along. The exterior finishes (roof and brink) are nearly completed and the interior framing is completed. In the area previously housing our Family Consumer Science and Engineering Technology classes, the framing is completed and drywall crews are nearly done. The goal is to gain occupancy of both spaces by the beginning of the second semester!

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 November 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!

Notes From Attendance

If for any reason your child needs to miss school or leave early, please send a note with the date and reason the student will be gone, or call the attendance office a day or two prior to the absent date. The students may sign themselves out in the Main Office, but CAN NOT leave the building until a parent/guardian comes up to the main entrance doors, rings the bell, and is identified. If someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up your student, please let us know, who that person will be, prior to the pick up.

Homework requests can also be made before 10:00 a.m. if your student is absent two (2) or more full days.

(402) 408-8649

Notes From the Nurse

Melissa Smith, RN

As the autumn and winter months are upon us please remind your students of the importance of handwashing and covering your cough into your elbow! These simple hygiene practices will help to stop the spread of germs and keep your child and family healthy during the cold and flu season. As a friendly reminder the cold months are also prime time for the spread of head lice. Please remind your student not to share hats, coats, combs, brushes or any personal care products. If your child does have a case of head lice please notify the Westside Middle School main office.

Finally, parents of students not in compliance with Nebraska State Law regarding health requirements were notified via mail in October. ALL 7th grade students are required to have a 7th grade physical and the TDaP immunization. ALL 8th grade students that would like to participate in sports are required to have a sports physical. Please turn in your health forms as soon as possible. Reminder letters will be sent out again in November to those still not in compliance. Thank you!

Notes from the A.D.

Dan Carlson, Athletic Director

The fall sports season is over and I would like to thank all of our dedicated athletes, parents, and coaches for making it another successful year. Like most seasons, it was a mixture of wins and losses, but successful in effort and life lessons learned throughout the season.

On October 13th, we recognized all of our athletes at the fall sports recognition event. All student-athletes received certificates of participation and were recognized by their coaches for their efforts this fall. The following students were recognized as sportsmanship winners: Natalie Bratetic, Olivea Nieto, and Natalie Pease(volleyball), Ben Radicia, Jack Hirz, and Zach Morgan(football), Elsie McCabe and Nikolas Loontjer(cross country). Once again congratulations to all athletes!

November is a big month for Boys' Basketball. Barry Glanzer begins his 26th year as Head Boys' Basketball coach and will lead a staff including Lance Mosier, Bruce Moulton, Rondel Korbelik, Bruce Zabel and John Bergin. We will have nearly 100 boys participating in our competitive and intramural basketball programs at WMS. Please contact Coach Glanzer or one of the assistants to discuss the competitive basketball program. Intramural competition will begin in early December.

Dan Carlson

Athletic Director

WMS Community Club

Susan Gass - Community Club President

Hope everyone had a wonderful fall break. As always, it is hard to believe how fast the school year is going. I would like to thank a few people who have helped with community club activities recently.

-Thank you to Barbara Wimmer for helping me set up the conference dinner. Special thanks to all of the parents that provided the amazing desserts and donated waters.

- Thank you to Lisa Humphrey for handling the hospitality for the fall sports recognition evening. Again, special thanks to the parents who donated the beverages.

- A HUGE thank you to WMS parent and Planet Sub owner, David Stiles for selling us the sandwiches for the teacher conference dinner for a very discounted rate! We truly appreciate your generosity and the sandwiches were a huge hit!

HOLIDAY LOGO WEAR!

We will be selling logo wear in time for the holidays! We have Nike Westside bags, Elite socks (only a few left in stock) and will be doing another round of orders including a new item! Details coming soon.

We will offer sales November 21 through December 10 so we can have everything distributed by

December 17. If you want Nike bags or socks – those are available now. Simply email me atsgass@cox.net to request them.

Next Community Club Meeting: November 17 @ 6:30 pm in media room.

Curriculum News

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

Jackie Ryan

Career Education is an important part of Family Consumer Science. Students use the Nebraska Career Connections (NCC) website (www.nebraskacareerconnection.com) to access current information concerning career education. Each student is assigned a NCC account starting in the seventh grade. Students will have access to this account not only through their middle school career but also throughout their high school career to help them to manage their career goals and needs.

Also, within the nine weeks that students are in FCS, they will access and apply information from MyPlate. During the middle school years, students are growing extremely rapidly making it even more important to have a healthy lifestyle. MyPlate recommends the following; eat a variety of fruits and vegetables, sleep for at least seven hours each night, drink six to eight glasses of water a day, and complete continuous physical activity for at least 60 minutes each day. There are three components of MyPlate. Those components are: balance calories, increase certain foods (such as fruits, vegetables and whole grains) and reduce foods high in sodium and sugar. The website offers a number of resources for meeting these recommendations. Visit the website at www.choosemyplate.gov with your student today!

You can find more information regarding our course in the "Course Description" in PowerSchool or on our Blackboard site. Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns!

Cold Weather Care for your Mac Book

Mitch Scheffler & Ed Krueger, Tech Support

1. Before turning on your computer, allow it to sit out and reach room temperature (between 50 and 95 Fahrenheit). Powering on the computer while the ambient temperature is outside of this range can cause damage to the computer.
2. Do not leave your computer in the car or any place where it might be exposed to extreme temperatures for extended periods of time (more than a few hours).
3. Keep your computer sleeve/case zipped up to help prevent snow and rain from getting inside, but be aware that the bag is not waterproof.

Please call the WMS Tech Support Department with any additional questions or concerns about your computer.

Tech Support Office: (402) 408-8606

Lunch Account Information

Tired of writing a check or sending cash with your student to pay for school meals? Go to the website myschoolbox.com to pay for meals online. Follow the easy instructions on the web. Your student's ID number is required to open an account. This ID number can be found on the class schedule or by calling the WMS main office. You may choose to set up an account that will charge your credit card when you reach a pre-set low balance, or you may put money in the account yourself. It's an excellent way to take one more thing off your "to do" list.

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 86th Avenue to 85th 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.

November Athletic Calendar

11/03/16	Thurs.	V/JV Boys' BB vs. LaVista Jr. High	LaVista Jr. High	4:00 PM
		Boys' BB Blue/Green vs. LaVista Jr. High	WMS	4:00 PM
11/07/16	Mon.	Boys' BB Gold/White vs. Papillion Jr. High	Papillion Jr. High	4:00 PM
11/08/16	Tues.	V/JV Boys' BB vs. Millard Central MS	WMS	4:00 PM
11/10/16	Thurs.	V/JV Boys' BB vs. Kiewit MS	WMS	4:00 PM
		Boys' BB Blue/Green vs. C.B. Wilson MS	C.B. Wilson MS	4:00 PM
		Boys' BB Gold/White vs. Ralston MS	Ralston MS	4:00 PM
11/11/16	Fri.	Boys' BB Gold/White vs. Lewis Central MS	WMS	4:00 PM
11/12/16	Sat.	JV Boys' BB Tournament	WMS	9:00 AM
11/14/16	Mon.	V/JV Boys' BB vs. Bellevue Lewis & Clark MS	Bellevue Lewis & Clark	4:15 PM
11/15/16	Tues.	V/JV Boys' BB vs. Russell MS	Russell MS	3:45 PM
		Boys' BB Gold/White vs. C.B. Kirn Jr. High	WMS	4:00 PM
11/17/16	Thurs.	V/JV Boys' BB vs. Beadle MS	Beadle MS	3:45 PM
		Boys' BB Blue/Green vs. Ralson MS	Ralston MS	4:00 PM
11/21/16	Mon.	V/JV Boys' BB vs. Bellevue Mission MS	WMS	4:00 PM
		Boys' BB Blue/Green vs. Liberty MS	Liberty MS	4:00 PM
11/29/16	Tues.	V/JV Boys' BB vs. Anderson MS	WMS	4:00 PM
		Boys' BB Blue/Green vs. Beadle MS	WMS	4:00 PM

November Calendar

11/07/16	Mon.	WMS Don and Millies night	Don and Millies	Evening
11/15/16	Tues.	8th Grade Band/Chorus Concert	WMS- PAC	7:00 PM
11/24/16	Thurs.	THANKSGIVING DAY - NO SCHOOL		ALL LEVELS
11/25/16	Fri.	THANKSGIVING BREAK - NO SCHOOL		ALL LEVELS
11/29/16	Tues.	District Jazz Band Concert	WHS	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.