

## 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

### Picture Retakes

Friday, October 21

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016

5:00 - 9:00 PM

and

Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2016

5:00 - 9:00 PM

### Intersession

Thursday, Oct. 6, 2016 and

Friday, Oct. 7, 2016

### NO SCHOOL

Professional Development  
Day

Monday, Oct. 10, 2016

### NO SCHOOL

### Fall Athletic Awards

Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016

5:00 p.m. WMS Cafeteria

## A Note From The Principal

The school year is off to a great start and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and students for continually improving. As the 1st quarter comes to an end, it is natural to see students, parents, and teachers concerned about academic progress. Although we want to see our students do their absolute best, please remember that 1st quarter progress reports are a snapshot in time. It gives parents, teachers, and students an opportunity to make adjustments if needed.

### Fall Parent Teacher Conferences

Fall parent teacher conferences will be held on October 4th and 5th from 5-9 pm on both nights. Teachers will be located in the cafeteria and gymnasium areas. To help ease congestion, we are asking families to stagger their attendance according to the schedule for last names. Additionally, the conferences are staggered between the different levels between elementary, middle, and high school. Although we know certain circumstances may arise, please try to adhere to the suggested times as much as possible.

### MAP Testing

WMS administered the Math, Reading, and Science MAP Tests the weeks of September 19th and September 26th. The MAP test will be administered three times during an academic school year, giving WMS data that can be used to drive instruction and provide interventions for struggling students. The results from the fall testing will be shared during Parent Teacher Conferences, along with the grade reports for the 1st quarter.

### Gallup Student Poll

Beginning Friday, October 26th, the WMS Counseling Department will be coordinating the Gallup Student Poll as part of a District-Wide effort to measure hope, engagement, entrepreneurial aspirations and career/financial literacy. The 24 items in the Gallup Student Poll measure several dimensions of student success, including engagement with school, hope for the future, entrepreneurial aspiration and career/financial literacy. Administered during SPARK, the survey is part of our building goal of student engagement. 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>. If you would prefer your student to opt-out of the Gallup Student Poll, please email me directly.

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. I hope this October 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 Attendance

*Sheri Guenther, Attendance Secretary*

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*

Thank you to those who have turned in 7th grade physicals and updated immunizations. If you have not turned these in, please do so as soon as possible. Nebraska state law requires this information to be turned in at the beginning of 7th grade.

Any student with a chronic health condition (such as asthma, diabetes, or a seizure disorder) requires a health action plan updated annually. Please turn in this documentation if you have yet to do so.

If your student has changes in health or updates to immunizations, please keep us informed and send documentation to school. We want to ensure the safety and health of your student and provide the care that he or she may need.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Phone (402) 408-8652

Fax (402) 390-6454

## Notes from the A.D.

*Dan Carlson, Athletic Director*

The fall sports season is coming to a close and athletes and coaches have put forth high levels of effort throughout the season. Nearly 200 athletes participated in cross country, football, and volleyball. We are fortunate to have enthusiastic athletes, coaches, and parents willing to make these programs a success. Thank you! Please set aside Thursday, October 13th at 5:00 p.m. for an event to recognize all participants in fall interscholastic athletics. An invitation letter will be sent to student athletes and their parents within the next week.

During the second quarter we have our boys basketball season. Sign-ups for boys interested in playing basketball at Westside Middle School will be conducted right after school Tuesday, October 4th and Wednesday, October 5th in the cafeteria. During sign-ups they will receive a handout with important information and dates for skills assessment for boys basketball.

We will have a Varsity, Junior Varsity and 4 Reserve teams that will make up our interscholastic teams. These teams will compete against other schools in the metro area. We will also offer an intramural program from 3:30 to 4:00, the intramural season will begin the first week of December. Feel free to contact Mr. Carlson (Athletic Director) 402-408-8669, Mr. Glanzer (interscholastic) 402-390-6474 or Mr. Zabel (intramurals) 402-408-8680 if you have any questions about our basketball program.

All student athletes must have a physical examination and participation form completed and signed prior to the beginning of athletic practice. For 7th grade students, the physical requirement has likely been met as part of the enrollment process. 8th graders, however, will need to have a current athletic physical exam on file with the athletic director dated after May 1, 2016.

Dan Carlson

Athletic Director

## WMS Community Club

*Susan Gass - Community Club President*

Thank you again to all whom signed up to assist with various activities throughout the year, as well as, those that contributed funds to assist with staff and student events.

We are collecting Box Tops - feel free to send them to school with your student and simply deliver to the office.

Enjoy the upcoming fall break. Our next WMS CC meeting is Thursday, November 17 at 6:30 pm in the Media Center.

## PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

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, October 5, 2016

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.

## FALL PLAY

"Something's Rotten in the State of Denmark," is in full swing at Westside Middle School. This hilarious Shakespearean spoof is loosely about Hamlet and his dysfunctional family. The cast has embarked on this adventure in comedy with zest! This is a fast pace play which will have you rolling in your seats! Come see these very talented thespians in action on Thursday and Friday, October 27th and 28th at 7pm. \$5.00 for adults and \$3 for seniors and students. All ages are welcome!

## 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](http://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.

# October Athletic Calendar

10/01/16	Sat.	Varsity Volleyball Tournament	Ralston MS	8:00 AM
10/04/16	Tues.	Reserve Volleyball vs Wilson MS	Wilson MS	4:00 PM
10/06/16	Thurs.	Varsity Football vs. Anderson MS	Anderson MS	3:45 PM
10/08/16	Sat.	7/8 XC State MS Meet	Papillion-LaVista South HS	1:00 PM
10/13/16	Thurs.	7th Grade Boys Basketball skills assessment	WMS	3:30PM
10/14/16	Fri.	8th Grade boys Basketball skills assessment	WMS	3:30 PM
10/17/16	Mon.	7th/8th Grade Boys Basketball skills assessment	WMS	3:30 PM
10/18/16	Tues.	7th/8th Grade Boys Basketball skills assessment	WMS	3:30 PM
10/31/16	Mon.	Boys Basketball Vs. Papillion MS	Papillion MS	4:00 PM

## October Calendar

10/03/16	Mon.	WMS Don and Millies night	Don and Millies	Evening
10/04/16	Tues.	Parent- Teacher Conferences	WMS	5:00 - 9:00 PM
10/05/16	Wed.	Parent- Teacher Conferences	WMS	5:00 - 9:00 PM
10/06/16	Thurs.	Intersession - NO SCHOOL	ALL LEVELS	
10/07/16	Fri.	Intersession - NO SCHOOL	ALL LEVELS	
10/10/16	Mon.	Professional Development Day NO SCHOOL	ALL LEVELS	
10/21/16	Fri.	Picture Retake Day	WMS	8:00 AM
10/27/16	Thurs.	Fall Play Something's Wrong in the State of Denmark	WMS-PAC	7:00 PM
10/28/16	Fri.	Fall Play Something's Wrong in the State of Denmark	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.*