

## 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

### Library Hours

The WMS Library is open 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Student using the Library after school are expected to work on homework or read quietly. Those students not working will be asked to leave. Contact Quinn McGuire or Russ Olsen to sign up.

# A Note From The Principal

It is hard to believe we are already into September. The school year is off to a good start for our students and teachers. Both curriculum nights were well attended and I had heard many positive comments about our staff and their enthusiasm for the new school year. The partnership between parents and the school is so critical. Our staff really appreciates the support. Additionally, if there is any time we need to support your student, please feel free to contact the school. We are here to serve the families we work with.

## Student Planners

Every student at WMS was given a planner (spiral notebook and electronic version) to help them stay organized and to help assist in daily communication with parents. Daily, the teachers will write the phrase 'learning goal' and 'cw' for class work on the board. The rationale is for students to clearly see the objective for each class period, everyday. Students are expected to record the learning goal for each class in their school provided assignment notebook. Take a look at your child's assignment notebook to see what they are learning at school. Think about using a phrase like, "Tell me more about adding and subtracting integers." This will force a conversation and help avoid the response of "I didn't learn anything today," when you ask how their day went.

## Attendance

September is Attendance Awareness Month and WMS continues to work at increasing our Average Daily Attendance rate. I've included eight reasons why attendance matters.

- **Learning.** Students who attend school learn more than those who don't. Even for children with perfect grades, frequent absences interfere with learning.
- **Socializing.** Daily contact with peers helps children develop social skills. Intermittent attendance makes it hard for them to feel like part of the class.
- **Caring.** Insisting that children attend school every day shows children that their parents want what's best for them and that education is important.
- **Security.** Being tardy or absent is stressful for children. Having a predictable routine and knowing they'll be on time helps children feel more secure.
- **Habits.** Attending school regularly and arriving on time helps establish good habits that carry into adulthood.
- **Independence.** When children attend school regularly, they learn to function in settings outside the home.
- **Belonging.** Every child is valued at our school. When children are gone, their teachers and classmates miss them and what they bring to the classroom.
- **Legal.** Student attendance is the law. Society expects all children to attend school regularly. Truancy can lead to court involvement.

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 September 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 A.D.

*Dan Carlson, Athletic Director*

The fall sports season has officially begun with the start of football, volleyball, and cross country. Please feel free to contact the coaches below with any questions you may have.

Football.....Dave Baker, Jim Sichmiller, Jake Hoover, and Lucas Apfelbeck

Volleyball.....Shelby Janowski, Megan Deras, Afton Burr, and Kalen Carlson

Cross Country.....Emily Graham and Jennifer Kotulak

The mission of the Westside Middle School Athletic department is to provide early adolescents of varying skill levels with diverse opportunities for competition and life lessons through athletics. As part of this mission, we provide parents, coaches, and athletes with best practices for making athletics a positive experience. Below are some tips for parents on how to make the most out of your child's game day experience. The spirit of these tips can also be applied to your role in supporting their overall development.

### BEFORE THE GAME

- Tell your child you will be proud of them regardless of how well he or she plays.
- Tell your child to play hard, have fun, and it's o.k. to be nervous.

### DURING THE GAME

- Let the coaches do their job and avoid giving advice to the athletes. If you are using verbs from the stands, you are probably saying too much.
- Cheer good plays and good efforts by both teams.
- Mention good calls by the officials to others. Avoid criticism of officials.
- Enjoy the game, it will be over before you know it.

### AFTER THE GAME

- Let your child tell you about the game (avoid giving your post-game analysis unless asked). Ask open-ended questions:

“What was the most/least enjoyable part of the game?”

“What did you learn from the game?”

- Tell your child that you are proud of him or her! (especially if the game didn't go well)
- Thank the officials for doing a difficult job.
- Thank the coaches for their effort.

As always, visit our website for the most up-to-date schedules. Feel free to contact me at 402-408-8669 or [carlson.daniel@westside66.net](mailto:carlson.daniel@westside66.net) any time with questions concerning WMS athletics. You can also get athletic updates on from my twitter feed: @wms66athletics

Dan Carlson

## **WMS Community Club**

*Susan Gass - Community Club President*

Thank you to everyone who supported the Logo Wear fundraiser for the community club. We hope you are enjoying your new Westside Wear!

The next Community Club meeting is September 15 th at 6:30 pm in the WMS Media Center.

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

## **Notes From the Nurse**

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

## **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.

## **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.

# September Athletic Calendar

9/06/16	Tues.	Reserve Volleyball vs. LaVista Jr. High	WMS	4:00 PM
9/08/16	Thurs.	V/JV Volleyball vs. Mission MS	Mission MS	4:15 PM
		JV Football vs. LaVista Jr. High	WMS	4:00 PM
		Varsity Football vs. Lewis Central MS	Lewis Central	4:00 PM
9/09/16	Fri.	7/8 XC Millard South Invite	Walnut Grove Park	6:00 PM
9/10/16	Sat.	JV Volleyball Tournament	WMS	8:00 AM
		7/8 XC Central Middle School Meet	Fontenelle Park	11:00 AM
9/12/16	Mon.	Reserve Volleyball vs. C.B. Kirn Jr. High	WMS	4:00 PM
		V/JV Volleyball vs. LaVista Jr. High	LaVista Jr. High	4:00 PM
9/13/16	Tues.	V/JV Volleyball Triangular	Bellevue Lewis & Clark	4:00 PM
		7/8 XC Papillion Jr. High Meet	Halleck Park	4:00 PM
9/15/16	Thurs.	Reserve Volleyball vs. Fremont MS	Fremont MS	4:00 PM
		JV Football vs. Bellevue Lewis & Clark MS	Bellevue Lewis & Clark	4:15 PM
		Varsity Football vs. Bellevue Lewis & Clark MS	WMS	4:00 PM
9/16/16	Fri.	7/8 XC RMS Invite	Walnut Grove Park	4:30 PM
9/17/16	Sat.	Reserve Volleyball Invitational	WMS	8:00 AM
9/19/16	Mon.	Reserve Volleyball vs. Papillion/Wilson MS	WMS	4:00 PM
		JV Football vs. Papillion Jr. High	WMS	4:00 PM
9/20/16	Tues.	V/JV Volleyball vs. Kiewit MS	Kiewitt MS	3:45 PM
9/22/16	Thurs.	V/JV Volleyball vs. Beadle MS	Beadle MS	4:00 PM
		Varsity Football vs. Papillion Jr. High	WMS	4:00 PM
9/24/16	Sat.	7/8 XC Omaha Bryan Invitational	Bryan High School	9:00 AM
9/26/16	Mon.	Reserve Volleyball Triangular	Ralston MS	4:00 PM
		JV Football vs. Logan MS	Logan MS	4:15 PM
9/27/16	Tues.	V/JV Volleyball vs. Fremont MS	WMS	4:00 PM
9/29/16	Thurs.	JV Football vs. Millard North MS	WMS	4:00 PM
		Varsity Football vs. Liberty MS	WMS	5:30 PM
		7/8 XC Sarpy Cross County Challenge	American Heroes Park	4:30 PM
9/30/16	Fri.	Varsity Volleyball Tournament	Ralson MS	4:00 PM

## September Calendar

9/16/16	Fri.	WMS Fun Night	WMS	7:00 - 9:00 PM
9/19/16- 9/23/16	All Week	MAPS Testing	WMS	All Week
9/29/16	Thurs.	Community Club Meeting	WMS- Library	6:30 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.*