

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

NO SCHOOL

Presidents' Day

Monday, February 19, 2018

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 15th our 7th grade students participated in a Courage Retreat held at the West Hills Community Church. 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 7th 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 .

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 the staff sign the Resolution of Respect towards others. 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

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

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. We have 35-40 wrestlers on the team and 40 girls participating in basketball this season. 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 3rd. This year we are expecting over 250 wrestlers from 17 different schools. Admission for the tournament is \$5 for adults and \$1 for students.

Dan Carlson

Athletic Director

Communication from WMS Community Club

Barbara Wimmer, WMSCC President

Hello Middle School Families!

Community Club is gearing up for a busy Spring! Here are the updates:

TAGG - since late August we have raised \$500. Keep tagging your purchases!!! All money raised goes directly to the middle school, not community club.

Parent/Teacher Conferences March 12 & 14 - Community Club will be sponsoring teacher meals during conferences. Please contact Kristi Davis kdavis993@cox.net if you would like to assist her or donate money to fund meals or donate items.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week April 16-20 -

"Many hands make lighter work". We are looking for a few parents to help with this committee. Our thought is one person will be assigned a day to provide the staff with a little something special. Examples are coordinate a meal, coffee and donuts, snacks, gift bags, smoothie day, etc...

Little things mean a lot. Please contact Lisa Rezac lrezac@kbbldservices.com if you are interested in being on the committee or donating money or items.

Logo Wear - There are still items available for purchase. Please contact Susan Gass sgass@cox.net for details.

7th Grade Parents - Community Club is currently filling our slate of officers and committee chairs for the 2018-2019 year. CC is a great way to be engaged with many aspects of WMS, meet other parents and engage with school staff. Please contact Lisa Rezac, Pres. Elect for more details.

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.

Direct: (402) 408-8649

Main Office: (402) 390-6464

Main Office Fax: (402) 390-6454

E-mail: webb.elizabeth@westside66.net

WCS Snow Day Information

Nebraska Winters can get pretty tough at times. When snow accumulates and the bitter wind blows, Westside Community Schools share with parents a concern for the safety of their children. Here are a few guidelines that should help us work together to assure the safety of students, no matter how bad the weather.

- If bad weather forces the closing of school, you will receive an AlertNow phone message from the District the night before or the morning of the closing. We will also ask local radio and television stations to make the announcement. Information regarding school closings will also be available on the Information Line, 390-2299.
- Designated staff should report to buildings unless notified otherwise.
- If schools are open during inclement weather, parents should decide whether or not their children will attend school.
- When extreme weather conditions develop during school hours, it is our policy not to dismiss students. Many children do not have adult supervision at home during the day and are safer at school.
- Parents may pick their children up during the school day if they feel it is necessary.
- Because of transportation requirements, there may be times when other school districts close while District 66 Schools remain open.
- School personnel will remain in the buildings as long as children are present.

24-hour Information line: (402) 390-2299

Lunch Account Information

Tired of writing a check or sending cash with your student to pay for school meals? Go to the website myschoolbucks.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.

February Athletic Calendar

02/06/18	Tues.	V/JV Girls BBall vs. Kirn MS 7/8 Wrestling vs Kirn MS	WMS C.B. Kirn MS	4:00 PM 4:00 PM
02/08/18	Thurs.	V/JV Girls BBall vs. Fremont MS Reserve Girls BBall vs. Wilson MS	WMS C.B. Wilson MS	4:00 PM 4:00 PM
02/13/18	Tues.	Reserve Girls BBall vs. Fremont MS	Fremont MS	4:00 PM
02/15/18	Thurs.	V/JV Girls BBall vs. LaVista MS Reserve Girls BBall vs. LaVista MS	WMS LaVista MS	4:00 PM 4:00 PM
02/20/18	Tues.	V/JV Girls BBall vs. Papillion MS 7/8 Wrestling vs Papillion MS	Papillion MS WMS	4:00 PM 4:00 PM
02/22/18	Thurs.	V/JV Girls BBall vs. Liberty MS	WMS	4:00 PM
02/24/18	Sat.	Mission JV Wrestling Invite	Mission MS	8:00 AM
02/26/18	Mon.	Millard JV Wrestling Invite	Beadle MS	3:45 PM
02/27/18	Tues.	V/JV Girls BBall vs. Russell MS	WMS	4:00 PM

February Calendar

02/05/18	Mon.	WMS Don and Millies night	Don and Millies	4-9:00 PM
02/19/18	Mon.	Presidents' Day- NO SCHOOL	ALL LEVELS	
02/20/18	Tues.	Band/Chorus? Strings Concert	WMS-PAC	7:00PM
02/24/18	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.