

## 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

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Monday, January 15, 2018

## A Note From The Principal

I hope everyone enjoyed a happy and restful semester break. As the semester comes to an end, I want to thank you for the support you have shown your students and our staff. As a school, we continue to work towards making WMS the best school it can be and your support is vital. I sincerely appreciate the feedback because it helps our school progress towards our goals.

WMS believes in recognizing and honoring our students for their dedication, hard work, and accomplishments. In addition to weekly and quarterly recognition from the interdisciplinary teams, there are multiple ways students may be formally recognized for their achievements.

### Honors and Student Academic Recognition - National Junior Honor Society

WMS believes in recognizing and honoring our students for their dedication, hard work, and accomplishments. Recently, WMS moved away from a formal Honor Roll and chose to replace it with two more prestigious recognition events. We will again not have an honor roll. Rather, our students will have the opportunity to be recognized at our National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony this spring. The National Junior Honor Society chapter of Westside Middle School is a duly chartered and affiliated chapter of this prestigious national organization. Students in the second semester of seventh grade or grade eight are eligible for membership. Those students who meet the scholarship criterion of a 3.8 on a 4.0 scale are invited to apply for this honor. Formal invitations will be mailed home in January. Please see our website (About us > Distinctions) for more details.

### Honors and Student Academic Recognition - Rotary Honor Roll

Every year, WMS partners with the Rotary Club of Omaha in recognizing the top 5% of 8th grade students in the Metro area. The objective of the 8th Grade Rotary Honor Roll is to honor outstanding achievement in each of these four categories: Leadership, Character, Scholarship and Presence. As a Rotary Honor Roll recipient, students will have the opportunity to have their names on a plaque permanently displayed at our school and attend a luncheon with other Metro area recipients. Every 8th grade student is eligible to apply and the process will begin later this spring.

### Honors and Student Academic Recognition - Academic Honors Night

The last recognition event is our Academic Honors Night in May. We will be recognizing both 7th and 8th grade students who have achieved the President's Award for Educational Excellence and the President's Award for Educational Achievement. Students can earn this recognition through their grade point average, standardized achievement test, or adult faculty recommendations. Additional recognitions will be students participating in our academic competitions either as an individual or as a team member.

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). I hope this January 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

*Liz Webb, Attendance Secretary*

With the upcoming holidays and many opportunities for families to travel, here are a few tips from the attendance office to make sure your student doesn't miss out on work assigned in his or her absence. 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 email, or making one call to the main office, we will take care of the rest.

If you are sending a note, have your student bring the note to 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, where the teacher will list the homework and initial the sheet. The 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 the main office recording the absence in PowerSchool, all of the teachers will be aware of the absence. As always, contact the main office 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

## Notes from the A.D.

*Dan Carlson, Athletic Director*

At the end of the boys' basketball season we recognized the efforts of four competitive 8th grade teams. Coaches were very complimentary of the improvement and dedication the athletes displayed this season. As part of the event, each student received a certificate of participation and each team had an individual who earned the WMS Ultimate Warrior Award. The recipients were: Chandler Meeks, Aiden NewMyer, Keione Hagens, Jack Scioli, Mark Gurnett, and Davison Kreiling. Thank you to all players, parents, and coaches for a great season.

Girls basketball and wrestling seasons take place during the months of January, February, and March. Girls basketball teams were determined through try-outs the last week before winter break. Wrestling practice started before break, but it is not too late to join the wrestling team. If you have questions about girls basketball or wrestling, please don't hesitate to contact myself or one of the coaches below.

- Girls' Basketball. Lance Mosier, Head Coach
- Intramural Girls' Basketball, Liddy Mahacek and Megan Albers, Co-Coaches
- 7th/8th grade Wrestling, Lucas Apfelbeck, Head Coach

Please encourage your son or daughter to participate in athletics at WMS. We provide a variety of opportunities regardless of skill level. Do not hesitate to contact me with questions and/or concerns regarding WMS Athletics.

Dan Carlson

Athletic Director

## WCS Coat Closet

*John Bergin*

Westside Coat Closet has coats for people in our district - from babies to adults. If you are in need of a coat, please contact the school. We can get a coat for you. We also have hats, gloves/mittens. If you are cleaning out your closet and find you have coats you have outgrown, please pass them on to our Coat Closet. They can be left at the school office, and we will get them to the right place. Thank you for any help you can give us.

We also have a food pantry available to all families with a Westside student. The pantry provides food and other household supplies confidentially to families up to twice a month.

To get more information or access the coat closet and/or the food pantry contact John Bergin (WMS Social Worker) at 402-390-3147.

## 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

## Cold Weather Care for your Mac Book

*Mitch Scheffler & Ben Fraizer, 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 [myschoolbucks.com](http://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.

## 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

# January Athletic Calendar

01/18/18	Thurs..	V/JV Girls BBall vs. Lewis Central MS Reserve Girls BBall vs. Lewis Central MS	C.B. Lewis Central WMS	4:00 PM 4:00 PM
01/23/18	Tues.	Reserve Girls BBall vs. Ralston MS 7/8 Wrestling vs. Ralston MS	WMS WMS	4:00 PM 4:00 PM
01/25/18	Thurs.	V/JV Girls BBall vs. Kiewit Reserve Girls BBall vs. Kirn MS	Kiewit MS WMS	3:45 PM 4:00 PM
01/30/18	Tues.	V/JV Girls BBall vs. Bellevue Reserve Girls BBall vs. Papillion Jr. High 7/8 Wrestling vs. Bellevue Lewis & Clark	Bellevue MS WMS WMS	4:30 PM 4:00 PM 4:00 PM

## January Calendar

01/15/18	Mon.	Martin Luther King Jr. Day- NO SCHOOL	ALL LEVELS
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*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.*