

# WMS NEWS

***From the Principal's Desk:***

Good Afternoon WMS Families,

Next week, WMS will be taking the annual M-Step. The Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress, or M-STEP, is a 21<sup>st</sup>-century computer-based assessment designed to gauge how well students are mastering state standards.

6th, 7th, and 8th grade students will be testing April 30th and May 2nd, during their 1st hour class. Students will take the assessment on their Chromebooks, please remind your student(s) to bring their Chromebook and charger to school on Monday. Students will be leaving their Chromebooks and chargers at school to ensure they are ready for testing.

Following the assessment, 8<sup>th</sup>-grade teachers are planning to take students to Goodrich Park to release the Chinook Salmon, which have been raised in Ms. Tate and Mrs. Van Dam's classrooms through partnership with Michigan's Salmon in the Classroom Project. The plan is for students to walk to Goodrich Park following the test and return back to school at 2:40 PM.

We want your child's state testing experience to be as stress-free as possible. Your positive outlook will help support your child's experience. Please remind your student to get plenty of rest the night before testing.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Craig Thompson  
WMS Principal



**WMS Believes...**

1. Students must feel safe, cared for, and valued for learning to take place.
2. It's our job to spark student curiosity and help students identify/pursue their interests.
3. Students thrive on intentional structure.
4. School decisions should reflect the distinctive nature of middle school students.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade News:**

Greetings all! Heads up that we will be keeping chromebooks in our building as we head into the M-Step test next week. We need to ensure that the chromebooks are here and charged, so we will have our students plug in their chromebooks in their advisory class at the end of the day Friday. We will continue to keep them at school through Thursday next week.

In addition, we are in the process of setting up a field trip for mid to late May. Student behavior at school may impact their opportunity to attend the field trip. We will be in contact with you if we have concerns about your daughter/son's behavior.

In Geography, students are learning about early American Civilizations such as the Aztec and Inca. Science classes are continuing our exploration of the Universe.

In math class, we have two more units to go! We wrapped up unit 6 last week with a test, and now we are barreling into unit 7: negative numbers. There are only 5 lessons before the first quiz, so your student can expect to have a quiz early next week!

In English we are continuing to work with the novel *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*. Students are gathering information from the text to support their ideas with evidence as they engage in a text-based dialogue. We are also continuing to analyze the use of figurative language to develop the text's central idea and provide additional details about the main character. Students need to continue doing their independent reading at home and bringing their book to school each day for additional opportunities to read.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade News:**

Mr. Huizenga's Science classes have completed their first section of Waves. During this section, we covered the nature of waves, wave characteristics, wave types, speed of waves, and wave interactions. This week we will be starting our Sound Waves Unit

ELA classes are Shuffling Along with our Harlem Renaissance module. We plan on wrapping up Unit 2 by the end of the week to give students time to breathe before we take our MStep tests next week (ELA testing will be Tuesday, April 30th).

History - The 7th graders are taking the "Silk Road" to China and back. We will learn about trade, economics, currency and why the Silk Road was more than just...a road.

Math classes are now working on finishing Unit 6, Equations and Inequalities. We had an assessment last Wednesday on the first 12 lessons. We will now focus on writing and solving inequalities. This week we will be completing the math MStep on Thursday, May 2nd.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade News:**

Next Tuesday and Thursday (4/30 and 5/2) the 8th graders will be taking the Science MSTEP and Social Studies MSTEP in their first hour classes. They will be leaving their chromebooks and chargers at school again to ensure they are ready for testing. We are also making plans for releasing our salmon parr. Our first choice is Tuesday, April 30th, but this may change depending on the weather. The plan is to walk to Goodrich Park after lunch and return to WMS at 2:40 pm. Families will be notified if this changes due to weather.

**ELA:**

We have completed the reading of *Maus I* and a literary analysis of *Maus* and the poem "Often a Minute"

We are now studying "upstanders of the holocaust"

Students have very little homework for ELA, but they should be reading every night for 20 minutes from their independent reading book.

**Math:**

Students are about halfway through the Unit 7 - Exponents and Scientific Notation material.

The 8.7 Quiz will be Friday 4/26

The remainder of this unit will focus on Scientific Notation.

**U.S. History:**

This week we will start a new unit on the causes of the Civil War.

Next week we will begin a Civil War Portfolio.

**Science:**

We're heavy into weather. We go outside each day and fill out a weather log on the types of clouds, direction of the winds and do a daily projection of the weather.

Students did a weather project which included a flipgrid video forecast of their favorite US city (ask them what city they chose).

We're discussing the effects of climate change and how it affects the weather.

**Elective's News:****Spotlight on STEM...**

Students in STEM 6 recently finished up a mini research project and created one-pagers about hidden figures in STEM. These one-pagers highlighted the work of scientists, engineers, computer scientists, and inventors whose work had gone largely unnoticed in history. With their new-found appreciation of these "hidden figures", students started working on their Midterm Free Choice Build, in which they select a STEM topic of their choice and use research to prepare a model and presentation to share with the class. Presentations for term 3 students will begin next week.

Students in STEM 7 have been working hard to keep our salmon tanks clean as we prepare to release the salmon into White Lake next week.

We have probably the best-looking batch of chinook that we've ever had in 16 years of participating in the DNR's Salmon in the Classroom program. After the salmon are released, we will begin prepping the tank to house two invasive sea lamprey that we are getting on May 8th through Project SLIME (Sea Lampreys in Michigan Education). These adult lampreys are trapped and removed from Michigan rivers by the DNR and Great Lakes Fishery Commission as part of their sea lamprey control program. Students will study lamprey anatomy and behavior, as well as the economic and environmental impact of this species.

STEM 8 recently wrapped up their environmental film project, and has entered their engineering era! Students are currently designing and prototyping landing containers for the naked egg drop project, in which they will drop raw eggs off of the side of the stadium bleachers in hopes of a safe and successful landing. After that, they will spend the last month of school working on a variety of bridge building challenges.

**Athletics:****Baseball:**

Apr 27, 11:00 AM, Whitehall Red vs Ludington, Whitehall Baseball/Softball Complex  
 Apr 27, 11:00 AM, Whitehall Black @ Montague  
 May 4, 11:00 AM, Whitehall Black @ Park  
 May 4, 11:00 AM, Whitehall Red vs Montague, Whitehall Baseball/Softball Complex  
 May 11, 11:00 AM, Whitehall Red vs Whitehall Black, Whitehall Baseball/Softball Complex

**Softball:**

May 1, 6:00 PM vs Reeths-Puffer Middle School Whitehall Middle School  
 May 8, 6:00 PM @ North Muskegon Middle School  
 May 13, 6:00 PM, vs. North Muskegon Middle School, Whitehall Middle School  
 May 15, 6:00 PM, vs Fruitport Middle School Whitehall Middle School Funnel Field

**Tennis:**

Apr 27, 10:00 AM, Whitehall vs North Muskegon, Whitehall High School Tennis court  
 May 4, 10:00 AM, Whitehall @ Ludington Ludington High School, Schoenherr Courts  
 May 11, 10:00 AM, Whitehall @ Ludington Black, Ludington High School Schoenherr Courts  
 May 18, 9:00 AM, Jamborees

**Track:**

Apr 29 4:00 PM @ North Muskegon Middle School  
 May 6, 4:00 PM @ Montague NBC Middle School, Montague High School Stadium  
 May 8, 4:00 PM, vs Ravenna Middle School, Whitehall High School Track

**Girls Soccer:**

Apr 27, 1:30 PM, vs N. Muskegon 1 @ North Muskegon  
 May 4, 12:00 PM, vs Montague @ Orchard View  
 May 11, 10:30 AM, vs N. Muskegon 2 @ Montague