

WMS NEWS

From the Principal's Desk:

Dear WMS Parents and Guardians,
I hope you and your family had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed some quality time together. It has been a great first week back to school, it's been awesome to see our WMS students back at school with enthusiasm and renewed energy.

Upcoming Events & Important Dates:

7th Grade Vision Screening - January 16

We will be conducting vision screenings for all 7th-grade students on January 16. This screening is a routine check to help identify any vision issues that may affect a student's learning experience. If you would not like your child to get their vision tested please send a signed letter to the middle school for them to be opted-out. Parents/Guardians will receive communication from Muskegon County Public Health if there are any vision issues identified during the screening.

End of the First Semester - January 17

The first semester will officially end on January 17. We encourage students to stay focused during this final week of the semester as grades are finalized.

No School - January 20

There will be no school on January 20. This is a staff development day, and we look forward to continuing to enhance our teaching practices.

Student Activity Night - January 31

The Whitehall Student Leadership Team is hosting a middle school activity night on January 31st. This will be a fun night for all 6 - 8 students. The activity night will begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m. More information will be provided in our next newsletter.

Ski Trip to Caberfae Ski Resort - February 28

We are excited to announce that our annual ski trip to Caberfae Ski Resort will take place on February 28! This is always a fun and memorable experience for our students. Please have your student stop by the office and pick up a ski form if they are interested in attending.

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.

6th Grade News:

Science: We will be wrapping up our unit on cells. Cell projects will be due the week of January 20.

Geography: Students will be studying the Geographic features of countries located in North America and practicing map skills.

Math: We are finishing up our unit on dividing fractions. The end of unit assessment will be at the end of next week.

English: This week, we began our new unit of study. We will learn about the Design Thinking Process as we read William Kamkwamba's autobiography, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*.

7th Grade News:

ELA: The English classes jumped right back into our study of epidemics. We're finishing our investigations of the 1906 Typhoid Outbreak on Oyster Bay (Hello, Typhoid Mary!) and wrapping up the disease section of our module with our end-of-unit assessments. Next, we'll delve into social epidemics and students will examine the FOMO phenomenon and how social media has become its own form of an epidemic.

MATH: The math classes are presently finishing up Unit 4, Section 1. We will begin Section 2 (Applying Percentages) of DESMOS next week. In this section, students will focus on real world situations like tax, tip, and college cost. In about a week and a half, we will be assessing Unit 4 concepts. The students will be taking the NWEA math test next Wednesday. Please encourage them to give it their best shot, so we get accurate data.

Science: Mr. Huizenga's Science classes wrapped up their Energy Unit before the New Year. We will be kicking off 2025 by diving into Waves learning about their forms and characteristics.

History: 7th graders are moving east to India. We will be exploring the Indus River Valley and learning about the civilizations that began there. The students will also spend a few days studying the Himalayan Mountains. If you had the opportunity, would you climb Mt. Everest?

8th Grade News:

ELA: The Omnivore's Dilemma is still underway. We're discovering the multiple uses of corn... who knew it was in almost everything? It's the one multi-purpose tool that America needs to function, or so it seems.

Math 8: In Math 8, the students are starting Unit 4 Linear Equations and Systems. This unit will involve lots of solving equations. Calculators and showing the students work will be required.

Algebra: In Algebra, students will continue to work through Unit 5. This unit is about all kinds of functions and how to interpret them. We will also be working on some of the basics of exponents in order to get ready for the next unit.

U.S. History: This week and next we will learn about Westward Expansion and the idea of Manifest Destiny.

Science: Students are using their knowledge of rocks and fossils to explore the Geologic Time Scale and learn about the history of the earth, when the dinosaurs were here, etc. They are putting together a presentation on one of the time Epochs in history and learning a new presentation software called Prezi.

Electives News:**Spotlight on STEM...**

Students in STEM 6 wrapped up the first semester by presenting their Midterm Free Choice Build projects. This project allows students to pick a STEM topic that interests them and use research to create presentation slides and a physical model in order to teach the class “something cool”. From catapults and trebuchets, to ocean trash clean-up vessels, pop-up books and origami, models of the Eiffel Tower, the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, and a Boeing 737 Max airplane, these projects were impressive!

STEM 7 students have spent the last few weeks learning about buoyancy, Archimedes Principle, and boat design as they constructed sailboats for our Recycling Regatta that was held this Wednesday. The fastest boat in 3rd hour was designed by Wyatt Cooper and Brody Procnier, and the fastest boat in 4th hour was designed by Austin Siemen and Will Wheeler. We are also happy to report that our classroom sturgeon, Swim Shady, is continuing to thrive and is up to 97 grams and 30 cm long! Thank you to all of the STEM 7 students who have conducted weekly water quality tests on our classroom aquariums.

After finishing our bridge engineering unit in November, students in STEM 8 spent the past month creating short documentary films using resources from World of 8 Billion (research), Twisted Wave (narration/audio editor), and WeVideo (video editor). Students first watched and critiqued a curated list of short films (3-5 minutes) to learn how filmmakers use storytelling to engage and persuade their audience. This past week we had our classroom film festival to watch the films the students created.

Athletics:***Competitive Cheer:***

Jan 13, 5:00 PM, @ Fremont Middle School, vs. North Muskegon Middle School

Jan 21, 5:00 PM, vs Fremont Middle School @ Whitehall High School

Jan 25, 10:00 AM, @ Otsego Middle School