

WMS NEWS

From the Principal's Desk:

Dear WMS Families,
I hope you and your family are doing well. We have a few exciting WMS updates for the upcoming week! The Middle School Choir Concert has been rescheduled for Monday, December 16, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. We hope you can join us for this festive performance!

Additionally, we're kicking off our Holiday Spirit Week starting on December 16. Here's the schedule:

- Monday: Wear your favorite holiday sweater
- Tuesday: Wear your grade's color (6th:Green, 7th:White, 8th:Red)
- Wednesday: Christmas in July
- Thursday: All-out Christmas!

Lastly, please note that Christmas Break begins on December 20, 2024, and students return to school on January 6, 2025.

Volunteers Welcome:

We are always looking for ways to involve our families in the school community. If you are interested in volunteering at the middle school, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at craigthompson@whitehallschools.net. We would love to have your support!

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season!

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.

Science Olympiad:

Is your student looking for a fun activity to do this winter? Are they interested in exploring topics in science, technology, and engineering that fascinate them? Do they like to build structures and things that move? If so, they should consider applying to join the Science Olympiad team. Applications are available in the middle school office, and they are due by Wednesday, December 18th. Practices will take place 2 days per week after school from mid-January through late March. This program is open to all students in grades 6-8. Check out <https://www.soinc.org/> for more information about the program.

6th Grade News:

Geography: Students are exploring the human features of a place including the purposes of government and different government systems.

English: Students are finishing up the final unit of our studies with *The Lightning Thief*. This week we will complete the planning for our compare and contrast literary essay. Next week we will have time to type, revise, and edit in class. This essay is the final assessment and is a requirement. Over the holiday break, students are expected to be reading their independent reading book. After break we will begin our new unit of study on innovation.

Science: We are continuing our study of cells and biology.

Math: We can expect a quiz next week on dividing fractions.

Section 1: Introduction to Dividing Fractions
Interpret and create diagrams that represent dividing whole numbers by fractions.

Section 2: Dividing Fractions

Use a variety of strategies to calculate quotients of fractions.

Solve problems that involve dividing fractions.

7th Grade News:

ELA: The English classes have begun our second (and most delightfully disgusting) module of the year - Epidemics! We started unit one by looking at the bubonic plague and the great cholera outbreak of 1854. Students are learning not only about the diseases (symptoms and causes) but also about common medical beliefs and practices of the times and the scientists who helped find their cures.

Science: Mr. Huizenga's Science classes are currently learning about the different States and Forms of Energy. The students have covered Kinetic and Potential Energy, and we are starting Energy Conversions (PE to KE and KE to PE). I am looking forward to the very busy week before break and then the break itself.

Math: In Math class, 7th graders are finishing up Unit 3 on Measuring Circles and will have their assessment on that unit this week. During their last week before Christmas break, students will begin work on Unit 4 Proportional Relationships and Percentages, and work at deepening their understanding of proportions. They will conclude next week with a short quiz on that unit and then enjoy a two-week holiday break.

History: The students in History class recently finished Ancient Egypt and Pharaohs. Our next stop will be in China. Our focus will be the Silk Road and the impact of TRADE. We will make connections between trade and power. What types of Goods were sold and traded on the Silk Road? What goods would be bought and sold today?? What problems occurred on the Silk Road??? What parts of the Silk Road were dangerous? Why?

8th Grade News:

ELA:

The Omnivore's Dilemma is in full swing in the ELA classrooms. Students are being introduced to GMOs, pesticides, and types of farming.

The Outsiders book clubs are coming to a close. Students have worked hard to collaborate in book clubs by completing packets and engaging in riveting discussions. Stay gold, 8th graders!

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 are preparing for their 1st semester final exam which is on Wednesday, December 18th. There will be a practice exam on Monday December 16th. The exam will be 15% of their final semester grade and there will not be retakes available.

U.S. History:

Over the next few weeks we will be completing a President's Report. We will start a new unit on Westward Expansion after Christmas Break.

Science:

Tsunami's - The most deadly form of seismic activity. Students learned a little history of these deadly events plus how leaders around the world have put in place a network of sensors to detect tsunamis and a communications infrastructure to issue timely alarms to permit evacuation of coastal areas.

Volcanoes impact the entire world. Students are learning about the "Ring of Fire" where Volcanoes affect our West Coast as well as the entire Pacific.

Students get to go back to kindergarten and "cut and paste" the parts of a volcano as they learn the anatomy of a volcano.

Electives News:**Spotlight on Health:**

Our middle school health classes are busy learning important life skills! Here's a quick look at what's happening in each grade level:

6th Grade: Students are learning about car safety and internet safety. They are discussing topics like seatbelt use, distracted driving, and online privacy.

7th Grade: This month, 7th graders are diving into the world of germs! They will learn about how germs spread, how to prevent illness, and the importance of good hygiene.

8th Grade: Our 8th graders are wrapping up their unit on HIV/STIs. They are learning about the different types of STIs, how they are transmitted, and how to protect themselves.

If you have any questions about these topics or what your child is learning in health class, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. McGrew

Athletics:***Competitive Cheer:***

Dec 16, 5:00 PM, @ Fremont Middle School vs. Ravenna High School

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