

# WMS NEWS

## *From the Principal's Desk:*

Dear WMS Families,

First, I'm thrilled to announce that last week's middle school activity night was a huge success! Our students had a ton of fun and, most importantly, demonstrated respect for each other and the event. I am incredibly proud of how they came together and participated. We're already looking forward to another activity night this spring.

Tonight, Friday, February 7th, the middle school play kicks off at the high school auditorium. If you're looking for a fun way to support our students, the play is also showing tomorrow, Saturday, February 8th, at the same location. Both performances will begin at 7:00 PM, and tickets are just \$5. We hope you'll join us to cheer on our talented performers!

In the coming days, students in grades 3-12 can participate in a school climate survey. This survey allows students to share their thoughts on their school experience and gives us valuable feedback to improve our environment. We believe it's important for every student to have a voice, and this survey is an excellent way for them to do so.

Please click on the attachments included in this email to view a letter regarding the upcoming student survey and a copy of the survey itself. If you'd prefer that your child opt out of the survey, please complete the attached form in the letter and return it to the middle school office.

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:**

**\*Sixth Grade classrooms could use donations of Kleenex, please. \***

Geography: Students will be learning about the history and settling of the Western Hemisphere beginning with the early Mesoamerican civilizations.

Science: We will wrap up the study of cells next week and begin our study of the Universe.

Math: We are mowing our way right along in unit 5-decimals. Students can expect a quiz at the end of next week. This quiz will be assessing their ability to multiply and divide multi-digit decimals.

English: Students completed the Module 2 Unit 1 Mid Unit Assessment this week. We are focusing heavily on identifying the central idea of a text as well as different methods authors use to develop character traits. Next week students will have a book review due. They will receive a packet with the requirements tomorrow. The completed review will be due by 2/14/25.

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

Math: Math classes are presently finishing up Unit 4, Proportional Relationships and Percentages. Students will have an assessment for the unit next week, afterwards we will begin Unit 5, Operations with Positive and Negative Numbers.

Science: 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, the speed of waves, and wave interactions. Next, we will be starting our Sound Waves Unit.

ELA: 7th-grade ELA finished their epidemics unit by creating a podcast teaching their classmates about a deadly epidemic throughout history. We then watched *The Social Delima*, a documentary highlighting the disease-like nature of social media and the dangers of excessive and unchecked use. Our next module focuses on the collaborations and interactions between the artists, poets, musicians, and writers of the Harlem Renaissance.

History: Students are finishing up their studies on different religions and philosophies of the far east. Next, we will be learning about the "Silk Road" and how worldwide trade began. What was traded on the Silk Road? Who were the travelers on the Silk Road? How did the Silk Road change the world? What impact did it have on other cultures?

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

**\*The 8th grade will be going to the Muskegon State park on February 12th to enjoy the challenges of Winter. We will be gone during the day doing the following activities; cross country skiing, lugging, ice skating, hiking and broomball. Warm layer clothes and a water bottle will be needed. \***

ELA:

The Omnivore's Dilemma is still underway. We are analyzing author's purpose and delineating the author's argument and opposing viewpoints. We are also (or will be soon) conducting research on effectiveness and sustainability of our food chains. Finally, we are analyzing paragraph structures and using these models to build our own informational paragraphs.

Math 8:

In Math 8, we are near the end of Unit 4 Linear Equations and Systems. Solving systems take a lot of work to solve. Calculators and showing the students work will be required.

Algebra:

In Algebra, students have begun Unit 6, Exponential Functions. This unit has 21 lessons, so we will be working on this unit for a while.

U.S. History:

This week we will finish up our unit on Westward Expansion. Next week we will complete a Social Reformers biography.

Science:

We just completed the layers of the atmosphere and now moving into weather. Students are doing pressure experiments to see how the warmth of the sun is distributed around the Earth. (extra credit is available if they do it for their parents)

**Electives News:****Electives - Spotlight on Phys Ed**

We are starting our 2nd Semester this week!! I will miss the students from the 1st semester, but I am excited to work with the new students from the 2nd semester. As we start this journey there are a few things to know about PE.

**Dressing for class:**

Students will be required to participate in class wearing clothes and shoes that are designed and intended for physical and athletic activities. Clothing must allow for any range of movement to be performed. The following are examples of inappropriate PE apparel: Crocs, slides, Hey Dudes, jeans, boots, spaghetti straps, crop tops, dresses/skirts, etc.

**Locker Rooms:**

Due to vandalism, theft, and lack of students changing for class, the locker rooms will be closed during the school day. Please be sure to come to school dressed appropriately for class. Accommodations can be made if needed, see Mr. Hams.

**Grading:**

Class grades will be based on three components: Participation (VIKES expectations), Google Classroom Assignments, and Presidential Physical Fitness Exams.

Extra credit is available for students to earn back lost points. Please have your student see Mr. Hams during class and he will give them the extra credit assignment.

**Athletics:****7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball:**

Feb 10, 4:00 PM, @ Fremont Middle School vs. Fremont Middle School  
Feb 12, 4:00 PM, vs Oakridge Middle/High School @ Whitehall Middle School  
Feb 19, 4:00 PM, vs Orchard View Middle/High School @ Whitehall Middle School

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball:**

Feb 10, 5:15 PM, @ Fremont Middle School vs. Fremont Middle School  
Feb 12, 5:15 PM, vs Oakridge Middle/High School @ Whitehall Middle School  
Feb 19, 5:15 PM, vs Orchard View Middle/High School @ Whitehall Middle School

**Wrestling:**

Feb 10, 4:00 PM, vs. Manistee Middle School with 2 others @ Orchard View High School  
Feb 14, TBA @ Kenneth T. Beagle Middle School @ Kenneth T. Beagle Middle School  
Feb 17, 4:00 PM, vs North Muskegon Middle School with 2 others @ Whitehall Middle School