

WMS NEWS

From the Principal's Desk:

Good Afternoon WMS Families,

I hope this message finds you well. There's been a lot going on at WMS over the past two weeks. Students and staff have been working hard in their classrooms. Our band and choir students have been preparing for concerts. Our 7th/8th grade dance was a success. The WMS VIKES assembly recognized students for making positive choices throughout the school. Our winter athletes continue to compete while getting better at their sport. The student leadership team met to discuss the WMS spirt week themes. It's been an awesome two weeks.

-The WMS Band will be performing their winter concert on December 20, 2023. Our band students are excited to perform in the high school auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

-WMS students are encouraged to participate in our Middle School Winter Spirit Week. Spirit Week will take place December 18 - December 21.

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.

Spirit Week:

Monday: Hat Day (Wear your favorite winter hat)

Tuesday: Tropical Tuesday (summer-themed outfit)

Wednesday: Winter Whiteout (White clothing)

Thursday: Holiday Sweater or PJ Day

Xello! /Career Exploration:
6th grade parents, ask your child about Xello! Xello is a one stop online platform that students use for career planning. This week students logged on to Xello! for the first time in science and social studies classes. Xello! is a great place for students to explore their interests and learn more about themselves. They can log on anytime from PowerSchool.

Tutoring:
WMS is partnering again with GVSU on K-12 Connect, a tutoring program that matches college students with struggling middle school students. In this program tutoring is virtual, two times a week for 45 minutes, and done from home. We have openings for the winter semester. Most students need math help, but they can also get help for any subject. Please contact Mr. Lucas at 893-1030 or stevelucas@whitehallschools.net.

6th Grade News:
In 6th grade science, we are preparing for the end of the unit on cells. In math, we are starting a new unit on dividing fractions. In English, we are continuing with our work in *The Lightning Thief*. We are reading classic myths and comparing similar themes developed in the novel. We are also comparing scenes from the book to scenes from the Disney film and working to plan our first literary compare and contrast essay. In Geography students are learning to examine historical events and how they shaped the Geography of the Americas.

7th 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. Before the break, we will be introducing sound waves.

The English classes are wrapping up the first module The Lost Children of Sudan by creating e-book versions of children’s books based on the novel *A Long Walk to Water*. The module will be completed before break. When students return, they will begin Module 2 Epidemics.

8th Grade News:
ELA:
We have been completing activities and reading text from The Omnivore’s Dilemma about the food chain, GMOs, and government subsidies of corn and soybeans.
Students have very little homework for ELA, but they should be reading every night for 20 minutes from their independent reading book.
Math:
We have started Unit 4 (Linear Equations and Linear Systems). Students will be studying this material for the remainder of the semester. There will be a lot of calculations and showing of the work with this unit.

U.S. History:
This week we will complete our unit on the Civil War and start a new unit on Reconstruction.

Science:
We learned about the many layers of the atmosphere and how each help protect us in different ways
We started our weather unit by learning the “4 ingredients” of weather (ask them). Students are exploring the many cloud types with a daily walk outside to log the types of clouds and the direction of the wind
Student’s weather project will be doing a live weather forecast (presentation) on their favorite city. Ask them which city they will be doing

Elective’s News:

Spanish Language and Culture:

As we prepare for our 4th week of this elective rotation, Spanish classes at Whitehall Middle School are focusing on learning how to carry on simple conversations in Spanish and recognizing and speaking with new vocabulary. We are practicing pronunciation, singing, and playing "Chalupa", a Bingo game with vocabulary and drawings. 6th graders are learning the Spanish words for different classroom items, numbers, days of the week and months. They are currently working on a coloring project about La Navidad and special piñatas that are popular in Mexico this time of year. 7th graders are learning food vocabulary and are currently creating a project about different ways the December holidays are celebrated in the Spanish Speaking world. The 8th grade students are saying a weather forecast daily with a partner, and making a project for a current mini-unit about seasons and weather. In January when we return from break, we will be building dialogs to practice aloud with a partner. We are looking forward to eight more weeks of learning Spanish and culture!

Athletics:

Competitive Cheer:

December 18, Mason CC (MS), A, 5:00 PM
January 11, Oakridge (MS), A, 5:00 PM
January 12, Montague, A, 6:00 PM
January 18, Shelby (MS), A, 5:00 PM

Clubs:

Science Olympiad Applications Are Open!

Is your 6th-8th grader looking for an extracurricular activity this winter that will engage their brain and let them explore their interests in science and engineering? If so, they should apply to join the WMS Science Olympiad team. Founded in 1984, Science Olympiad is a STEM competition in which a team of 15 students prepares in advance and then competes at a regional tournament in 23 different events covering all areas of science. Event examples include Fossils, Disease Detectives, Crime Busters, Flight, Wheeled Vehicle, and Code busters. Each year, a portion of the events are rotated to reflect the ever-changing nature of genetics, earth science, chemistry, anatomy, physics, geology, mechanical engineering and technology. By combining events from all disciplines, Science Olympiad encourages a wide cross-section of students to get involved. Practices will take place after school 2 days per week during January – March, and our regional tournament will take place at Grand Valley State University on Saturday, March 23rd. Applications can be picked up in the middle school office or from Coach Susan Tate. Applications are due by Tuesday, December 5th. For more information about all 23 events, visit: <https://www.soinc.org/events/2024-division-b-events>