

# WMIS NEWS

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

Good Afternoon WMS Families,

Next week is the start of Mid-Winter Break. Mid-Winter Break begins February 19, 2024. Students will return to school on February 26, 2024.

On February 27, 2024, our 7th and 8th grade bands will perform at Montague High School for Festival. Parents are welcome to attend. The 7<sup>th</sup>-grade band will perform at 2:25 P.M., while the 8<sup>th</sup>-grade band will perform at 4:25 P.M.

7th and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students will be going to Whitehall High School on February 26th from 9:50 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. to rehearse for Festival. There will be a post-festival concert on February 28, 2024, at 6:30 P.M. at Whitehall High School. Students will be going to Whitehall High School on February 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:45 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. to rehearse for their post-festival concert.

There will be an MS/HS choir concert on March 4, 2024. The concert will begin at 6:00 P.M. at Whitehall High School.

Free vision screening for all 7th-grade students will take place on February 28th and 29th. Parents/Guardians will receive communication from Muskegon County Public Health if any vision issues are identified during the screening.

The Whitehall Middle School Student Leadership Team is organizing a 7th and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade dance for March 8, 2024. The dance is planned to start at 6:00 P.M. and end at 8:00 P.M. This is a casual dress dance. Students are welcome to dress up as they would on the day of an athletic contest. There will be snacks and drinks available for purchase. The cost to get into the dance is 5 dollars.

I hope you have a wonderful break. We look forward to students returning to school on February 26, 2024.

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:**

In 6th grade, students are working on becoming more independent and responsible for their learning and effort in classes. In Geography, students have been learning about Climate and Physical Geography. In ELA we are comparing and contrasting scenes from The Lightning Thief book and movie. We are also coming up with our own character and rewriting a scene.

In science the students are working on their graphing skills.

In MATH classes we are working on the following objectives:  
Multiply and divide multi-digit decimals using a variety of strategies.  
Divide multi-digit numbers with and without remainders using long division.

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

Mr. Huizenga’s Science classes are just getting started with their motion unit. Thus far we have covered Frame of Reference along with Speed, Distance, and Time. Last week we were able to use our new skills in calculating speed in our Amazing Physics Lab: known as the VAC. Next up, Acceleration and Momentum.

The Language Arts classes are working through the Epidemics Unit 2 focusing on the skills of analyzing and evaluating arguments and determining central ideas. The unit will conclude with an informational essay.

Math classes have started Unit 5 “Operations with Positive and Negative Numbers.”  
Throughout the unit we will be focusing on how negative values affect addition and subtraction first, and then multiplication and division.

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

ELA:  
We are writing our assessment for the Omnivore’s Dilemma module which is an argument essay that explores which food chain is the best to feed our community. We are analyzing and practicing the use of conjunctive adverbs to connect and contrast ideas in our own writing.  
Students have very little homework for ELA, but they should be reading every night for 20 minutes from their independent reading book.

Math:  
Many students have used their entire stash of pencils. Please check with your student to make sure they have an adequate supply. Students are studying Functions and Volume in Unit 5. The test over this unit will be sometime in the middle of March.  
The High School counselors will be visiting our 8th graders soon to make plans for their transition to the high school.

U.S. History:  
This week we will be learning about the causes of the American Revolutionary War. After mid-winter break we will start a new unit on Early American Governments.

Science:  
It’s rocks, mineral and fossil time! We are learning the differences between each and their everyday importance.  
We went down to the lab and learned how to use an identification key to differentiate between igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks  
Friday is rock show and tell day. Bring in your old rock collection, gemstones, geo, polished minerals or fossils and tell us where you got them from.

**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.

**Athletics:**

**Girls Basketball:**

February 19, Oakridge, A, 4:00 PM  
February 21, Orchard View, A, 4:00 PM  
February 26, Montague, H, 4:00 PM  
February 28, Ravenna, A, 4:00 PM

**Wrestling:**

February 16, Grand Ledge Invite, A, 4:30 PM  
February 19, Newaygo, Coopersville, Fennville, H, 4:00 PM  
February 21, Manistee/Muskegon CC/Orchard View, H, 4:00 PM  
February 28, Montague/Fremont/Holton Montague, 4:00 PM

**Elective's News:**

**Spotlight on Arts Exploration:**

In 6th Grade Arts Exploration, students are finishing up the clay/3-D unit. The students created a sculpture of a fish made from clay. After the pieces are fired in the kiln the students will be learning how to glaze their sculptures to add color to their works of art. I love to see the student's creativity during this project!

In 7th Grade Arts Exploration, students are currently in their painting unit. Color is one of the fundamental Elements of Art. Students are learning how to mix the Primary Colors to mix all the colors on the color wheel (Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary). They are also learning how to mix Tints and Shades. Students will be applying their knowledge of color mixing in a landscape painting.

In 8th Grade Arts Exploration, students are currently working on a large-scale snack sculpture project inspired by the Pop Art Movement from the late 1950's/early 1960's. This project allows students to work in groups of 2, and is a competition at the end of the unit. The student body will vote anonymously on their favorite sculpture. Throughout this project students will be using their math skills to scale up their designs into a large paper sculpture.

A special congratulations to Aria Tindall for taking 3rd place for her Silhouette Portrait Drawing in the Visual Arts category at the annual WDS talent show!