

# WMS NEWS



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

Dear WMS Families,

It has been a great week at WMS. It is hard to believe that we are already in the middle of April. Below is some information regarding upcoming events.

8th Grade students will be taking the Spring PSAT Assessment on Wednesday, April 17. It is important that students arrive at school on time. The assessment will begin first thing in the morning. Please remember to get plenty of rest the night before.

WMS is in the process of preparing the invitation letters for our summer school program. The first round of invites will be sent home April 15th. Please return the confirmation slip by April 19th, so that we can send out the second set of invitations. Summer School will be held Monday-Thursday at the middle school, from 8-12 on the following days: June 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, August 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, and 15.

6th, 7th, and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students will be taking the M-Step assessment on April 30th and May 2nd. Students will be tested during their 1st hour.

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.

**Summer Camp Opportunity for current 7th Grade Girls**

If you are interested in backpacking, camping, and canoeing, you should read the following:

The Girls Camp Director at Miniwanca is looking for 2 7th grade girls to attend Miniwanca's Trailblazer trip on June 30 to July 19. A full scholarship is being offered, so there would be no cost to the family. If interested you can contact the girls camp director directly at 2318612262 or [bwise@ayf.com](mailto:bwise@ayf.com). You can also call Mr. Lucas in the middle school office.

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

Welcome back from Spring Break!! Science will finish up our cells unit and begin our Universe unit. Geography students are learning about the history and cultures of North America. We will be wrapping up Unit 6 - Expressions & Equations in math classes next week. We are planning to test this unit on Thursday, April 18th. As usual, there are helpful links on math google classroom to help with understanding.

**Math 6, Unit 6**

- Solving equations
- Equivalent expressions
- Expressions involving exponents
- Introduction to representing relationships

In Ms. Briseno's English classes, we have finished up all of our projects and our novel. We can't wait to start our new novel. We are also reviewing punctuation.

In Mrs. Taranko's ELA we have been reading *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*. Our End of Unit 1 Assessment will be on Monday, April 15th covering text structure, identification of the central idea of a text, writing an effective summary, determining the author's method used to develop a character, and interpreting figurative language as it is used to develop a central idea. All slideshows used for this first unit are in our ELA Google Classroom and available for students to review. In addition, our 5th book review is due on April 19th.

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

Did you know that April is National Poetry Month? The ELA classes are jumping into our Harlem Renaissance module by taking a look at some of the elements of poetry and academic terminology that we will be using throughout. A focus will be the influence artists, musicians, and dancers have on the arts of today. Please keep in mind that some texts for the module may contain references to sensitive topics. The design of this module aims to support students and help them process the content of these passages with strength and compassion.

Math classes have moved on to section 2 of unit 6, working on solving equations. We have looked at tape diagrams, equations, and balanced hangers to see different ways of solving and understanding equations and variables. We also use word problems with real-life situations to see how equations can help us solve real-life problems.

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

Next Wednesday (4/17/24) the 8th graders will be taking the PSAT. Please encourage your student to get a good night's sleep the night before.

**ELA:**

We will complete the reading of *Maus I*. We are studying helping verbs, gerunds, and infinitives.

Students have very little homework for ELA, but they should be reading every night for 20 minutes from their independent reading book.

**Math:**

The assessment for Unit 6 - Associations in Data will be the end of the week after break. Next week we will start studying Unit 7 - Exponents and Scientific Notation.

**U.S. History:**

This week we will start a new unit on Westward Expansion. Our focus will be on the idea of Manifest Destiny.

**Science:**

With the arrival of the eclipse, it was appropriate that we moved into our weather unit. Students learned about the four ingredients of weather; Wind, Humidity, Temp. and pressure

We dove into to the wind, learning about causes wind and how it distributes heat around the globe.

Has anyone ever seen the wind? The answer is no. We've seen the effects of the wind, but we haven't seen the wind...there's a mystery to it.

***Elective's News:***

Our elective focus this week is on Spanish class!

Every day we try to speak, sing and practice vocabulary while also learning about culture -- and playing some games!

In Spanish class, 8th graders are currently finishing up a unit about sports vocabulary, as well as learning about ancient games that were played in Spain and the New World. We will begin our Survivor Project next week: 8th graders will choose a destination and figure out how they will survive there on a limited amount of money for a month.

7th grade Spanish students are learning food vocabulary, including different foods that are eaten in the Spanish speaking world. We will soon begin projects about how December-January holidays are celebrated in Spain and Mexico.

In 6th grade Spanish classes, students are focusing on basic conversations, numbers, days of the week, months, and colors. We are finishing up a Day of the Dead mask project. Next week, we will start a project about some festivals and cultural celebrations in Mexico and Spain.

***Athletics:*****Baseball:**

Apr 13 11:00 AM, Whitehall Red @ Mason County Central, Mason County Central Middle School

Apr 13 11:00 AM, Whitehall Black vs Mason County Central, Whitehall Baseball/Softball Complex

Apr 20 11:00 AM, Whitehall Black @ Manistee

Apr 20 11:00 AM, Whitehall Red vs Ludington, Whitehall Baseball/Softball Complex

**Softball:**

Apr 15, 6:00 PM @ Fruitport Middle School

Apr 17, 6:30 PM @ Grand Haven High School  
Grand Haven High School

Apr 22, 6:00 PM @ Fremont Middle School

**Tennis:** Apr 13 10:00 AM, Whitehall vs Fruitport/ Grand Haven @ Whitehall High School

Apr 20 10:00 AM, Whitehall vs Big Rapids @ Whitehall High School

Apr 27 10:00 AM, Whitehall vs North Muskegon @ Whitehall High School

**Track:** Apr 22 4:00 PM vs Orchard View Middle School @ Whitehall High School

Apr 24 4:00 PM vs Fremont Middle School @ Whitehall High School

Apr 26 3:30 PM MS GMAA @ RP

Apr 29 4:00 PM @ North Muskegon Middle School

**Girls Soccer:**

Apr 13, 10:30 AM, Vs Orchard View @ Ludington

Apr 20, 9:00 AM, vs Ludington 1 @ Shoreline White Lake Soccer Complex Full Field  
Shoreline Elementary Fields

Apr 27, 1:30 PM, vs N. Muskegon 1 @ North Muskegon