

# WMS NEWS

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

Dear WMS Families,

I hope you had a great Spring Break. It's been wonderful to see our students return with renewed energy and enthusiasm as we enter the final stretch of the school year. Spring is an eventful time of year at Whitehall Middle School, filled with numerous engaging activities, academic milestones, and special events. From state assessments, classroom projects, field trips, and end-of-year celebrations, there are many exciting opportunities to come.

As we transition into the spring testing season, please take a moment to review the important upcoming assessment dates outlined below.

***PSAT for 8th Grade – Tuesday, April 22***

Our 8th-grade students will be taking the PSAT on Tuesday, April 22. Testing will begin at 8:00 AM. Please encourage your student to get a good night's rest and eat a nutritious breakfast prior to testing. Students will complete the assessment on their Chromebooks, so it is essential that devices are fully charged and ready to use.

***MSTEP Testing – Grades 6–8-*** All middle school students will participate in the MSTEP state assessments over the coming weeks. All assessments will begin at 8:00. Please see the grade-level testing schedule below:

**6th Grade**

ELA: April 29

Math: May 6

**7th Grade**

ELA: April 30

Math: May 8

**8th Grade**

Science: May 1

Social Studies: May 7

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to call the middle school office at 231-893-1030. 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:

**Geography:** In Geography, students are exploring the history of settlement in the Americas and how history helped form the current cultures and countries.

**Science:** We continue our study of how seasons work.

**ELA:** This week, students began reading informational texts about the Space Race. The primary goal is to read and annotate informational text closely to learn new information, as well as think about their new understandings as they read. Additionally, students will make inferences about the technological, political, and social contexts of the time.

**Math:** In math class, we just completed our final NWEA test for the year. This is a good way to see how your student progressed from the year, and we will be using this data to help teach them next year! We have two more units remaining this year, in which both will help springboard themselves into 7th grade math.

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

**ELA:** Mr. Taranko’s classes are beginning the 4th and final module of the year, Plastic Pollution. This module looks at microplastics and the lasting implications of society’s dependency on plastic.

Mrs. Chamberlain’s classes are spending the rest of National Poetry Month studying different poetic forms and creating poetry books.

**Math:** In Math, students have completed NWEA spring testing this week and are continuing on in Unit 6 - Expressions, Equations and Inequalities. Students are currently learning to solve 2-step equations using tape diagrams and real world scenarios before moving on to solving one and two step inequalities.

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

On April 22, the 8th graders will take the PSAT. Their chromebooks will be left at school the night before.

**ELA:** Students are finishing Maus 1, and in turn, the first section of their Holocaust Unit. We will then begin to work on objective summaries and writing literary essays that analyze the theme and the structure of both Maus 1 and a poem by Magdalena Klein, “Often A Minute.”

**Math:** Students are taking the end of Unit 6 Associations in Data on Friday, 4/18. The next unit will be Unit 7 Exponents and Scientific Notation.

**Algebra:** Students are in the middle of unit 7, Quadratic Functions. The unit assessment will be after the PSAT.

**U.S. History:** This week we will complete a President’s Report.

**Science:** In America, we have an abundance of fresh water.....or do we? Students get to help RAISE AWARENESS by putting together a conservation poster on how to conserve water and help save one of our most precious resources. Students will then do a persuasive presentation to their classmates to try and get them on board with their water saving techniques. Next week starts their training and preparation for their upcoming water testing field trip on Wed. 4/23 and Thurs. 4/24

*Electives News:*  
*Spotlight on STEM...*

STEM is a class at Whitehall Middle School where students have the opportunity to explore current events and issues in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math, and to create solutions using the engineering design process. The majority of the curriculum is project-based and driven by student interest.

**STEM 6:** Have been building a foundation of knowledge concerning the 4 disciplines of STEM. They have sharpened their engineering skills by designing and building marble runs, and explored the world of science through technology by researching and creating biographical one-pagers about hidden figures in STEM. Next week we'll be learning about the application of technology in biological conservation with a frog telemetry kit on loan from the San Diego Zoo and Conservation Park.

**STEM 7:** Is just wrapping up a technology project using ArcGIS StoryMaps to create a storymap about their favorite restaurant. It has been fun to see them express their creativity, increase their technology skills, and share their favorite memories about their restaurant. Next week, students will be trained to conduct water quality testing on our classroom fish tanks in preparation for the arrival of our classroom sturgeon!

So far this fall, students in

**STEM 8:** So far this fall students have been focusing on the E in STEM—engineering! They have built towers, “naked” egg drop landing containers, and they have now started a unit on bridge forces and design. Students will progress through a series of engineering challenges to scaffold their understanding of materials science, bridge types, and the strength advantages of different trusses and girders.

*Clubs:*

**Fishing Club**

Students need to return their liability waiver form to Mr. Lupa. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 23rd, from 3:15 until 4:15.

**Culture Club**

Mr. Meinert will be running a Culture Club beginning the Tuesday AFTER Spring Break. April 15th. We will meet every Tuesday from 3 - 4:30. Please email Mr. Meinert,danmeinert@whitehallschools.net if you are interested. We will be learning about Cultures from around the world!!!! My goal is to learn about other cultures' way of living, games, music, art and food!!