

WMS NEWS

From the Principal's Desk:

Dear WMS Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for attending our spring parent-teacher conferences. We appreciate your commitment to your child's education; these conferences are a valuable opportunity for us to connect and work together to ensure each student's success.

7th Grade Field Trip to Legends Ranch

We are excited to announce that our 7th-grade students will go on a field trip to Legends Ranch! This experience will give students an engaging and educational day in a unique setting. The trip will be split into two groups. You will receive more information from your student's teachers.

Group 1: April 2nd

Group 2: April 3rd

School Club Photos – March 27th

On March 27th, we will be taking school club photos. All students involved in clubs will have the opportunity to have their pictures taken during the school day. The photos will be included in the school yearbook.

Spring Break

Spring break is just around the corner! School will be closed starting **April 4th**, and we will welcome students back on **April 14th**. I hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved break and returns refreshed and ready to finish the year strong.

Thank you again for all you do to support our students and school community. If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to call me at 231-893-1030.

Wishing you all 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.

6th Grade News:

Science - We are continuing our study of our solar systems.

Math- In Math, we are in Unit 6: solving equations. This is your student's first time working with variables! This unit requires a lot of grit dealing with a new topic. A quiz can be expected later this week or early next week.

ELA - In English this week we have continued to read the novel *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* analyzing the design thinking process that William used as he developed his windmill to bring electricity to his village. In addition, this week we introduced the final assessment for the end of this novel study which will be a research essay. This four-paragraph essay will present a critical problem faced by an innovator and their solution to their problem. Students have been given 10 innovators to choose from, each having prescreened resources for use. They may need to work on their research notes at home as homework in order to complete the essay before we head to spring break!

Geography- Students have been learning about the settling of North and South America through Early American Civilizations. They will be exploring the history through colonies to countries.

7th Grade News:

Science: Mr. Huizenga's Science classes will complete the Waves Unit with the Electromagnetic Spectrum and take a Final Assessment over the entire Wave Sections. Next, we will completely switch gears for the remainder of the school year and study Ecology, a great excuse to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather.

ELA: The ELA classes are wrapping up our Harlem Renaissance module, which focuses on the artists, authors, musicians, and dancers of the time and the influence they have on the arts of today. The culminating activity is a Museum Project in which students will design and create a museum exhibit with works connected by a common theme from the Harlem Renaissance. The grade level museum will be on display in the VAC during the week before spring break.

History: The 7th graders completed their trip on the Silk Road. They are creating a Google Slide Show on a topic from Ancient China! They will be sharing them in class next week. We will be closing out the year with two more units on Greece and Rome!

Math: Students are working on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing positive and negative rational numbers. Students are applying their math calculation knowledge to real-world situations such as rates, account balances, and temperature changes. We will be finishing up with Unit 5 next week and having our Unit 5 Assessment. We will then get started in Unit 6, "Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities", before we go on spring break on April 4th.

8th Grade News:

On March 5th the eighth graders met with the high school counselors. They covered high school credits, schedules, elective choices and extracurricular activities available in high school. All students will be sharing the information with parents in a slide show, recording their selected classes in PowerSchool and parents will need to sign a schedule form.

ELA:

ELA classes are in the throes of changing units. 8th graders are going to be becoming immersed in the time of World War II, and more specifically, the events of the Holocaust. Students will be conducting a novel study of *Maus I: A Survivor's Tale – My Father Bleeds History* by Art Spiegelman as well as interacting with other texts from/about the Holocaust.

Math 8:

Math 8 students are finishing up Unit 5 this week. We are moving into a shorter unit, Unit 6 - Associations in Data next. This will be a change in material from what we have been doing recently.

Algebra:

In Algebra, students have just taken their Unit 6 test and have started to change their mindset into quadratics. This will be a fun new unit where the students will be learning a brand-new topic.

U.S. History:

This week and next we are learning about the American Civil War.

Science:

We started our water cycle unit by learning about the three limiting nutrients Nitrogen, Carbon and Phosphorus and how they cycle through our environment. Water is one of our most valuable resources, especially here in great lakes region. Students are learning how water moves through the various water sheds and systems

Electives News:

This week's elective spotlight is on the Band program!

7th and 8th grade bands performed at MSBOA Band Festival on February 27th and received great feedback from judges to improve sound and technique. 8th grade did compete and received a Division 3 good rating. We look forward to playing at festival next year!

The Middle School Spring Band Concert is on Tuesday, May 13th at 6pm. Students have a call time of 5:15 pm at the High School band room. We will also have a Dress Rehearsal on Monday, May 12th at 6:30 pm to practice logistics for the concert the following day.

Students should arrive prior to call time on concert day wearing black pants and black shoes/socks, as well as a shirt that they can put their polo over. We are so excited to play some great music for you and hope to see you there!

Here are some upcoming dates for current 8th grade students interested in marching band next year. Mandatory events have a ***

April 26- Spring Solo and Ensemble (7th or 8th)

May 5 & 7: Colorguard Auditions (8th only)

May 6: Drumline Auditions (8th only)

May 12, 6:30 pm: Spring Concert Rehearsal (all band students) ***

May 13, 6 pm: Spring Concert (all band students)

\$50 deposit due for marching band ***

July 22: Freshmen Day (marching band only) ***

July 24: Pre-Camp (marching band only) ***

July 28-August 1: BAND CAMP!!! (marching band only) ***

Monday night rehearsals 6-9pm (marching band only) ***

Athletics:

If your child is interested in playing a spring sport please make sure you sign up on final forms at <https://whitehall-mi.finalforms.com/>

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Viking Athletic Center at 231-893-1070.

Clubs:**Fishing Club**

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 26th, from 3:00-4:00 PM.

Plant Club

With the help of Chef Jon Habletter and Farmer Lori Lundell, the Plant Club is busy growing microgreens and herbs for our cafeteria meals.

Viking Express/Craft Club

Starting March 20th and continuing for the next 6 Thursdays from 3:00-4:30 in room 12.

Students are welcome to bring their own supplies or use the crafting supplies provided.

Items will be made to sell at the Viking Express to help raise money for the school.