



# Middle School Newsletter

## September, 2024



### WEST DE PERE SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### West De Pere Schools Mission Statement:

The mission of the School District of West De Pere is to create a comprehensive educational and social environment for students, and staff which will produce life-long learners with the capacity to succeed in a global community.

#### Inside This Issue:

<b>Phantom Fundamentals</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Open House</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>First Day of School</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Picture Day</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Important Middle School Dates</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Student Dress</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Breakfast/Lunch Program</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Procedure for Excusing Absences</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>WDP PTO</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>School Fees &amp; Locks</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Athletic Information</b>	<b>6</b>

Dear WDP Middle School Families,

Greetings and welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! I hope this September newsletter finds your family well and enjoying summer. Some things of note to share as we embark upon the new school year include:

#### Building updates

One new thing students will notice immediately this year is the installation of a gaga pit next to the playground, behind the school. What is a gaga pit you might ask? A gaga pit is a circular area bordered by low walls in which a game called gaga ball occurs. Gaga ball is a variation of dodgeball, played in a confined space. The addition of a gaga pit at the middle school comes from the generosity of the 5-8 PTO and at the request of the physical education/health staff. Our gaga pit sits upon a newly installed bed of artificial grass, which we hope will result in minimal maintenance and a consistent/safe surface for students to play this game on.

#### Lunch groups

The middle school serves lunch four times a day, twice for 7<sup>th</sup> grade and twice for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Lunch and recess in general works like this – while 140 (or so) kids are in the lunchroom eating, the other 140 (or so) kids in the same grade level are at recess. Students then flip from lunch to recess and vice versa at a designated time. This occurs in both grade levels. As a result, students are assigned to either A lunch (before recess) or B lunch (after recess). Student lunch group assignments are based upon English/language arts classes, which makes it a random draw of sorts. We recognize that most kids want to eat lunch and have recess with classmates they consider to be friends. At the same time, it would be impossible for the school to manage a situation in which students got to pick their lunch/recess group. Please know that unless some special circumstances exist and that would require a variation to the rule, students will be expected to attend that lunch/recess period to which they are assigned. This is good practice for high school, where the same exact situation exists and there are few exceptions to the rule. Should your child encounter struggle with their lunch/recess assignment, please know that you can contact me, our associate principal, or either of our counselors.

#### Student Registration

Please remember to complete online student registration. If you continue to receive emails from us regarding this, your child's registration process has not been completed. Students whose online registration is not complete cannot receive their class schedules. Please contact our main office if you need assistance.

#### Traffic Patterns

Please review the 5-8 campus map enclosed in the email that accompanies this newsletter. Please bring your attention to three specific areas:

- Intermediate School staff parking lot – for bus drop-off/pick-up only before, during, and immediately after the school day. Parent traffic/parking is allowable for evening events only.
- Middle School staff parking lot – for employee parking only before, during, and immediately after the school day. Parent traffic/parking is allowable for evening events only.
- Middle School front drive – parent drop-off/pick-up of students should take place between the curb and white dashed line only. Parking (diagonal spaces) for parents and visitors is marked and available any time before, during, or after the school day.

Patient drivers are especially appreciated. Two newly installed speed bumps in the front drive help us to be mindful of driving speed. Thank you in advance for helping to keep our parking lots safe for kids and pedestrians.

#### New Staff

Ana Augustine – physical education and health  
Darin Behmke – special education  
Kirk Hanna – French  
8<sup>th</sup> grade English/language arts – yet to be hired

#### Returning staff in new roles

Meaghann Walder – 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies

#### Important Dates

August 21, 22, 23	Registration materials available/drop-off supplies in locker, 8:00-3:00 p.m.
August 28	Middle School open house, 6:00-8:00pm
September 3	Classes resume

See you soon!

James Finley, PhD

## Phantom “Phundamentals”

*Citizenship Compassion Courage Fairness Honesty Pride Respect Responsibility Unity*

As you drive around town, no doubt you have noticed the “My Kid Knows Phundamentals” car window clings that are proudly displayed by our student's families. At West De Pere Middle School, we assist parents in developing strong character in their children through the Phantom Phundamentals Program. This program emphasizes a different character word each month during the school year. Lesson plans, group discussions, bulletin boards, character quotes in the daily announcements, student writing assignments and projects, all surround the theme of character.

Since the start of the program in 2006, a large number of students have received a Phundamental t-shirt for demonstrating strong character while at school or in the community. The shirts are tie-dyed by the middle school Art Club and then sent to a local printer. As the students wear these shirts, they communicate to our community that developing students with strong character is just as important as preparing them academically.

We realize that any school effort is strengthened by a partnership with the home. As the students see their parents and teachers live out these selected words on a daily basis, they in turn will better understand how to do the same. We encourage you to take part in this process by discussing and demonstrating these traits with your child. Together we can continue to use the Phantom Phundamentals as a way to improve our school and strengthen the character of our students.

Jason Zielinski  
Associate Principal

### 2024/2025 Middle School Open House

**DATE: Wednesday, August 28, 2024**

**TIME: 6:00-8:00 PM**



All middle school students and parents are invited to attend the Open House Night on Wednesday, August 28, 2024. Come and receive important information for the school year, obtain class schedules, pay lunch and school fees (please be prepared to pay these separately), and meet the teachers. As a convenience for those that cannot attend on August 28th you can pick up your child's schedule, pay fees and have access to their locker on **August 21, 22, 23 from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

### First Day of School for 2024/2025

The first day of school for the 2024-2025 school year is **Tuesday, September 3, 2024. PLEASE NOTE:** The middle school's daily schedule for students **will begin at 7:45 a.m. and end at 2:50 p.m.** Parents who bring students to school are asked to have them here at 7:40 a.m. **School begins at 7:45 a.m.—this means students are to be in classes ready for instruction. Students not in class at 7:45 a.m. are considered tardy.**



### Student Schedules

Student schedules will also be provided at the open house. If you have any questions or concerns regarding schedules, staff members will be available to answer your questions. Locker assignments will be listed on the schedules. **Schedule changes will only be permitted the first week of school with principal approval.**

### Picture Day

Ambrosius Studio will be taking student and staff pictures on **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024.**



### Middle School Picture ID Cards

Students will receive a picture ID at the beginning of the school year. Students are expected to carry this card with them at all times. Students are not to deface the card in any manner. Lost cards must be replaced through the school office at a cost of \$4.

### Notification of Change

Please notify the office of any address, home, or emergency phone number changes that occur throughout the school year. Correct information will allow us to be able to better communicate with you.

## Important Middle School Dates

August 19	Football Equipment Handout 8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. 2:00 p.m. – 7 <sup>th</sup> Gr. 3:00 p.m. MS Gym
August 20-23 & 26	8:30-10:30am - Football Practice HS Stadium
August 21, 22 & 23	Schedule Pickup MS Office, 8:00-3:00 p.m.
August 26	Practice begins for Cross Country, Soccer & Volleyball
August 27 & 28	Teacher Work Days
August 28	MS Open House 6:00-8:00 p.m.
September 2	Labor Day/No School
September 3	1st Day of School 7:45-2:50
September 5	School Picture Day
September 10	PTO Meeting @ IS 6:30 p.m.
September 12	Athletic Grade Check
September 13	Fall Athletic Picture Day
September 20	Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.
September 26	Athletic Grade Check
October 4	Picture Re-Take Day
October 7	Practice begins for 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball 3-4:30 MS Gym
October 8	PTO Meeting @ MS 6:30 p.m.
October 10	Athletic Grade Check
October 17	Athletic Picture Day Girls' Basketball
October 17	Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.
October 17	Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:00—8:00 p.m.
October 18	No School
October 24	Athletic Grade Check
November 6	Last Day of 1st Quarter
November 7	Athletic Grade Check
November 8	Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.
November 11	7/8 Practice begins for Boys' Basketball
November 12	PTO Meeting @ IS 6:30 p.m.
November 14	Athletic Grade Check
November 22	Athletic Picture Day Boys' Basketball
November 26	Athletic Grade Check
November 27	Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.
November 28 & 29	No School
December 1	End of Trimester 1
December 10	PTO Meeting @ MS 6:30 p.m.
December 10	MS Winter Choir Concert at HS 6:30 p.m.
December 12	Athletic Grade Check
December 17	MS Winter Band Concert at HS 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 23—31	No School (Winter Break)
January 1	No School
January 2	Practice begins for 5-8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Wrestling @ IS
January 9	Athletic Grade Check
January 9	Athletic Picture Day Wrestling
January 14	PTO Meeting @ IS 6:30 p.m.
January 20	No School
January 22	Last Day of 2nd Quarter
January 22	Last Day of Semester 1
January 23	Athletic Grade Check
February 6	Athletic Grade Check
February 11	PTO Meeting @ MS 6:30 p.m.
February 17	6 <sup>th</sup> Boys & Girls Basketball Begins
February 18	5 <sup>th</sup> Boys & Girls Basketball Begins
February 20	Athletic Grade Check
February 20	Parent Teacher Conferences 4-8 p.m.
February 21	Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.
March 7	Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.
March 9	End of Trimester 2
March 11	PTO Meeting @ IS 6:30 p.m.
March 18	MS Art Show 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
March 21	Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.
March 24—March 28	No School (Spring Vacation)
April 2	Last Day of 3rd Quarter
April 7	Practice begins for 7/8 Track 3:00-4:15 p.m.
April 8	PTO Meeting @ MS 6:30 p.m.
April 9	Practice begins for 6 <sup>th</sup> Track 3:00-4:15 p.m.
April 10-12	MS Spring Musical
April 16	Athletic Picture Day Track
April 17	Athletic Grade Check
April 18	No School
May 1	Athletic Grade Check
May 2	Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.
May 2	MS Talent Show 7 p.m.
May 13	PTO Meeting @ IS 6:30 p.m.
May 15	Athletic Grade Check
May 19	Spring Band Concert @ HS 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. @ 7 p.m.
May 22	Spring Choir Concert @ HS 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. @ 7 p.m.
May 26	No School (Memorial Day)
May 26	Memorial Day Parade—7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Band
June 6	Last Day of School/Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.

## Student Dress

**DRESS**—Apparel can enhance or detract from any situation. This is especially true in an educational setting that requires much concentration and self-discipline. Students' dress, like their conduct, is a personal matter limited only by the realities of health, safety, guidance, or disruptions of normal school operations. **This includes co-curricular activities** (athletic events, dances, open gyms, etc.). Generally speaking, the following types of apparel will be considered as inappropriate school dress in the classrooms and hallways:

- Any clothing with writing, pictures, or symbols which enhance the image, or through direct appeal, promotes the use or consumption of tobacco, drugs, alcohol, and gang related items.
- Any clothing with writing, pictures, or symbols which are suggestive, obscene, or distasteful.
- Sleeveless or half shirts that leave shoulders uncovered, mid-section showing, or undergarments viewable.
- Shorts, dresses, or skirts significantly shorter than mid-thigh. Body contour shorts (spandex) must be covered by shorts or other clothing articles that conform to the dress code. Example - a shirt over spandex that extends to mid-thigh length.
- Pants or shorts worn in a manner that reveals undergarments. Example - pants worn well below the waist line.
- Outdoor attire (jackets).
- Hats, bandanas, hoods, etc.
- Excessive, suggestive, or revealing ripped or torn clothing.
- Wallet chains or like items.
- Bare or stocking feet.
- Bedroom slippers, rollerblades, shoes with wheels, or other non-traditional footwear.
- Backpacks will not be allowed in classrooms or hallways without prior administrative approval.
- No body art is allowed at the middle school

If a student's manner of dress or appearance is found to be in violation of the dress code, a staff member may ask the student to change, administrative assistance may be sought, or the parent/guardian may be contacted for assistance. Student's refusing to comply with the dress code may be subject to disciplinary measures.

## Transportation

Lamers Bus Lines will again be providing transportation for your child. If you are new to the district or have a question concerning the bus number, pick-up times, etc., please contact Lamers Bus Lines at (920) 336-0565.



Please review the Middle School traffic pattern diagram for bus & parent drop-off, pick-up, and parking. The Middle School day starts at 7:45 a.m. and ends at 2:50 p.m. Students are expected to gather on the playground before school and are led into the building starting at 7:40 a.m. by staff member supervisors who begin their duties at 7:25 a.m. There is no supervision of students before that time. Students who need to be picked up during the school day will exit the building via door #1, our main entrance.

## School District of West De Pere School Nutrition Program

The School District of West De Pere uses Meal Magic in all schools for students K-12. The School Nutrition software runs as a **student**-based account system. Breakfast, lunch, and milks are available on the first day of school. For the 2024-2025 school year, breakfast for students in grades K-4 will be \$2.00 per day, grades 5-8 will be \$2.10 per day, and grades 9-12 will be \$2.20 per day. Lunch prices for students in grades K-4 will be \$3.00 per day, grades 5-6 will be \$3.50 per day, grades 7-8 will be \$3.55 per day and grades 9-12 will be \$3.70 per day. Milk only purchases will cost \$0.50 per milk.



The student ID number will be the student's account number and will remain the same until the student has left the district. Deposits can be made to this account by sending payments in any amount (**checks payable to The School District of West De Pere, and are preferable to cash for safety reasons**) in an envelope marked with the Student Name and ID number to the student's school. Each school has a locked box in the office for students to deposit money. Our system withdraws money from the account on the same day it is received. **Payments can also be made online at [westdeperefamilyportal.cloud](https://westdeperefamilyportal.cloud), mailed to, or dropped off at The School District of West De Pere, 400 Reid Street, Suite W, De Pere, WI 54115.**

Account balance information can be obtained online at [westdeperefamilyportal.cloud](https://westdeperefamilyportal.cloud), by students as they pass through the lines for lunch, or by calling **our District Office at 920-337-1393 x8023**. Families who provide an email address will be sent a negative balance email daily when the student account falls below \$0.00 and a low balance email shortly before the balance reaches \$0.00. Negative accounts will also receive a nightly automated phone call to remind families that a payment is needed on the account.

### Negative Balances

**STUDENT ACCOUNTS ARE NOT CHARGE ACCOUNTS. Students will be expected to carry positive balances to participate in the School Nutrition Program. STUDENTS WITH BALANCES LOWER THAN NEGATIVE \$25.00 MAY NO LONGER MAKE CHARGES TO THE ACCOUNT. Cold lunches must be provided from home or cash must be used for each day's purchase until the negative balance is paid in full, the family qualifies for free or reduced priced meals, or a payment plan is in place. While we will certainly work with families who ask for extra consideration, we cannot allow unlimited charges to these accounts.**

### Free/Reduced Program

Our Free/Reduced meal applications are emailed to each parent/guardian address on file prior to the first day of school and you may also apply online at [westdeperefamilyportal.cloud](https://westdeperefamilyportal.cloud). Paper copies of the Free/Reduced applications are also available in the school office and district office. You may also print a paper copy of the application at [wdpsd.com>departments>school nutrition>free and reduced meals>free and reduced meal application](https://wdpsd.com/departments/school-nutrition-free-and-reduced-meals-free-and-reduced-meal-application). Complete the application and return it to your student's school office or mail it to The School District of West De Pere, 400 Reid Street, Suite W, De Pere, WI 54115. Students approved for the free or reduced program are eligible to receive one free or reduced priced breakfast per day and one free or reduced priced lunch per day which includes one ½ pint milk. **Additional meal or milk purchases, as well as milk only purchases, will be charged to the student account at the full price.** These procedures are regulated by Federal guidelines. If you have any questions regarding the School Nutrition Department, please contact **Michael at 920-337-1393 x8045**.

## Procedure for Excusing Absences

- The responsibility for regular school attendance of a child rests upon the child's parent(s) or guardian(s). All excused absences require parent/guardian/legal custodian written or verbal verification which is to be submitted to the principal, or designee, in advance or prior to re-admittance to school.
- The preferred method of excusing absences is by calling in to the appropriate school official **the day the student is absent**. Students who are absent should have a parent or guardian call the attendance officials on the day of the absence to provide an explanation for the absence (by 9:00 a.m. if homework is requested).
- Written excuses for student absences should be presented to the school's attendance official the day the student returns to school. Students not having a call-in must bring a note from a parent/guardian explaining the absence to the attendance office prior to 7:45 a.m. the morning the student returns to school. The district administrator or designated attendance official is empowered to approve a legal excuse to any student for the following reasons:
  - Illness of the student for prolonged or chronic absences. The district may request the parent or guardian to obtain a written statement from a physician or licensed practitioner as proof of the physical condition of the child.
  - An illness in the immediate family which requires the absence of the student because of family responsibilities.
  - Medical, dental, chiropractic, optometric or other valid professional appointments. Parents/guardians are requested to make their appointments during non-school hours.
  - A death in the immediate family or funerals for close relatives.
  - Family trips that can be taken only during the normal school term. The intent of this statement is to provide opportunity for students to accompany their parent(s)/guardian(s) on a vacation which cannot be scheduled when school is not in session. A parent/guardian shall be required to notify the building principal, or designee, prior to leaving on vacation of the pending absence for the purpose of reviewing the student's attendance record and overall performance record. A pre-excused slip must be obtained and returned prior to the absence. (See PRE-EXCUSED absence).
  - A court appearance or other legal procedure which requires the attendance of the student.
  - A quarantine as imposed by a public health officer.
  - Attendance at special events of educational value as approved by the principal or designee.
  - Approved school activities during class time.
  - Special circumstances that show good cause which are approved by the principal or designee in advance.
  - Impassable roads and extreme conditions endangering the child's safety.
  - School directed absence; disciplinary action taken by school, school sponsored activities, homebound instruction, others.

## Pre-Excused Absence

If a student plans to be absent from school for a reason other than illness, he or she should present a written excuse at least 3 days prior to the absence. The excused or unexcused nature of the absence will depend on the reasons presented. [Students will be issued a pre-excused absence form for excusable absences.] The student is to take the form to all assigned teachers and get homework assignments. **School work should be completed, turned in and have teacher approval prior to the date of absence.** Examples of pre-excused absences are: family vacations (1 day or more), bring your son/daughter to work day, professional appointments, deer hunting (only if a student is passing all coursework). **Without a pre-excused absence form, the above absences will be considered unexcused or truant.**

## WDP PTO Corner

The Intermediate School and the Middle School have joined forces and created a combined PTO.

Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. Location rotates between the IS and MS libraries.

All families are welcome to join! The first meeting will be Tuesday, September 10, 2024 @ 6:30pm in the IS library.

## School Fees/Locks

All students will pay a fee to cover the cost of textbook use, technology, supplies and course fees. Fee payments can be made online at [www.wdpsd.com](http://www.wdpsd.com)—click on “online fee payment” tab or payments can be brought to the middle school office.



All lockers must have a school issued lock. Locks may be purchased for \$6.00. Students who choose not to purchase a lock may borrow one for the school year from the school office.



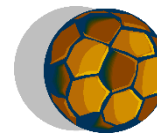
## Athletic Information for 2024-2025 School Year

In preparation for the 2024-2025 school year, please be advised of the following information regarding participation in athletic activities in grades 5 – 8.



### *Sport Offerings:*

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Boys & Girls Cross Country (Fall)  
Boys & Girls Intramural Basketball & Wrestling (Winter)  
**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Soccer & Cross Country (Fall)  
Boys & Girls Intramural Basketball & Wrestling (Winter)  
Boys & Girls Track & Field (Spring)  
**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Football, Volleyball, Soccer, & Cross Country (Fall)  
Boys & Girls Basketball & Wrestling (Winter)  
Boys & Girls Track & Field (Spring)



To participate in sports for the 2024-2025 school year, all athletes (grades 5-8) must complete the following ***before*** they can practice:

- **CURRENT PHYSICAL** (No less than every other year with April 1<sup>st</sup> as the earliest date) on or after April 1<sup>st</sup> of 2023. This is the only paper form that will be received.  
[https://www.wdpsd.com/cms\\_files/resources/Physical.pdf](https://www.wdpsd.com/cms_files/resources/Physical.pdf) Return this doc to the IS or MS office.

The remaining forms must be completed by the parent in your PowerSchool account, under the forms tab, enrollment category: **No paper copies will be accepted.**

- Indicate in Section 6, Co-curricular Activities, of your intent to participate in “sports” and check the box of each activity accordingly. This is how you “sign up” for a particular activity.
- **EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION AGREEMENT** – Medical Insurance Required (must be updated yearly)
- **CONCUSSION FORM** (must be updated yearly)
- **CODE AND RULES VIDEO** (done individually by **each** athlete in the family AND a parent/legal guardian), ONE TIME while a student is enrolled at the Intermediate or Middle School. **Note: If you completed a Code & Rules video previously, you do not need to complete again!**

### **Important Dates for the 2024-2025 Athletic Year:**

August 19	2:00pm – Football Equipment Handout 8th Graders – MS Gym 3:00pm – Football Equipment Handout 7th Graders – MS Gym Weigh-ins done during equipment check out 4-5:30 – First Football Practice – Helmets, Shorts, Jerseys - At MS Football field
August 20-23,26	8:30-10:30 am – Football Practice - High School Stadium
August 26	Practice Begins – Cross Country 3:00-4:00pm, Football – 3:00-5:00pm, Soccer – 3:00-4:30 pm, Volleyball–3:00-4:30 pm
August 30 & Sept. 2	Labor Day Holiday - no practices
October 7	7/8 Girls Basketball Begins, 3-4:30, MS Gym
October 17	Parent Teacher Conference Night
November 11	7/8th Boys Basketball Begins, 3-4:30, 7th (IS Gym), 8th (MS Gym)
January 2	5-8th Wrestling Begins, 3:00-5:00, IS Gym
February 17	6th Boys & Girls Basketball Begins, 3-4:30, Boys (MS Gym), Girls (IS Gym)
February 18	5th Boys & Girls Basketball Begins, 3-4:30, Boys (MS Gym), Girls (WW Gym)
February 20	Parent Teacher Conference Night
April 7	7/8 (co-ed) Track Practice Begins – at MS gym 3:00-4:15 pm
April 9	6th (co-ed) Track Practice Begins – at IS gym 3:00-4:15 pm



**Parents of Athletes:** Contact information: Please make sure the school’s office has updated contact information on file. The information that is in PowerSchool will be used to contact you for events and notifications. Text Messages: Due to FCC regulation changes, in order to receive text messages on your mobile device each device will need to text "Y" or "Yes" to 68453. This will enable your device to receive important messages from your child’s school. If you wish to stop receiving messages at any time simply text "Stop" to 68453. Go to [www.wdpsd.com](http://www.wdpsd.com), Parents, Parent Notification and follow instructions.

PLEASE GO TO [WWW.BAYCONFERENCE.ORG](http://WWW.BAYCONFERENCE.ORG) FOR PRACTICE/GAME SCHEDULES.  
SIGN UP ON “NOTIFY ME” TO RECEIVE ANY CHANGES MADE TO THE SCHEDULE

For a tutorial on bayconference.org, go to [www.wdpsd.com](http://www.wdpsd.com), click on Middle School then Athletics, then Bay Conference Tutorial Sheet.