



Middle School Newsletter

November, 2024



Dear WDP Middle School Families,

When the end of the month arrives and I need to write a newsletter article for the upcoming month, I sometimes look back at past years to review things I shared around that time of the school year. While looking back at past November newsletters, I found that in 2019 I wrote about how we experienced significant snowfall during Halloween. Five years later, today, we're enjoying 80-degree weather on the same calendar date. That is wild! Other amazing things to discuss include:

CLUE

Our student council is sponsoring a school-wide CLUE game, based upon the old board game, October 24-November 5. Students view a slideshow every day in advisory in which audio clips and other clues are shared. The game involves daily puzzles that encourage students to deposit guesses (for prizes) in a special box in the library, building toward the grand finale on November 5. It is a great thing to watch middle school age kids, who sometimes are in a hurry to become adults, enjoy something like a good, old-fashion CLUE game. Staff members playing roles in our CLUE game include:

Mr. Darrow



Colonel Mustard

Mr. Dworshok



Professor Plum

Mr. Gibbons



Wadsworth The Butler

Ms. Blanchard



Ms. Peacock

Ms. Pamperin



Ms. White

Ms. Schlatter



Yvette The Maid

Mock Presidential Inauguration

Students witnessed a mock Presidential Inauguration on Tuesday, October 15 during an all-school assembly. Dr. Jason Lau, the new WDP Superintendent, played the role of the inaugurated individual. The event was designed to be a non-partisan extension of our social studies/civics curriculum during this, an election year, and provide an opportunity to celebrate our new school district leader!



Coming soon...

Festive Fridays – occasional Fridays in which all classes are shortened by a few minutes, allowing as much as 10 minutes to be added to the lunch/recess time of the day. These days are meant to recognize/celebrate/reward overall good behavior from the student body.

No Phone Fridays – occasional Fridays in which students are not permitted to have/use their cell phone at any time during the school day other than lunch/recess. The purpose of these days is to teach students that they WILL survive without their phone for a couple hours. In some cases, their day may be improved as a result!

Both of these special Fridays debuted last year and were largely successful.

Sincerely,
James Finley, PhD

Phantom Phundamentals

November – Pride

Students at West De Pere Middle School continue to impress the teachers and staff with their acts of character at school, in extra-curricular programs, and at home. Here are a few examples of the way that our students are demonstrating strong character.

Penelope Lee, Grade 7, displayed **COMPASSION** when she helped a new student get to classes even when it was out of her way. She also had the new student eat lunch with her.

Ahlayna Elm-Blackowl, Ava Gage and Brooklyn McLinnis, Grade 8, showed **COMPASSION**. While at another middle school for a volleyball game, the girls encountered a student in the bathroom who had fallen off her bike and needed bandages. They immediately found their coach to help this stranger.

Attention Deer Hunters!

If your son or daughter is planning on going deer hunting, the following procedures **must** be followed to have the absence excused:

1. Present a written parent permission slip to the attendance clerk or have a parent call the school requesting the student to be released for a pre-excused absence. (**Pre-excused absence slips will be available the first week of November**)
2. Student will be issued a pre-excused absence form to be signed by all teachers.
3. Return completed form to the attendance office two days prior to the planned absence.



French Club News

French Club students met on Thursday, October 10 after school for the French Club Game Event! Students enjoyed French cookies and played a variety of familiar games in French or authentic French games. Some examples include Milles Bornes, Clue, and Guess Who. French Club is open to all students, grades 6-8, who have French this school year, and students are still invited to join! Students can look forward to one French Club event per month throughout the school year. November's event will be getting ready for National French Week! It will be held on Thursday, November 7 after school until 3:45 p.m. Students will meet in the middle school library for the event. Students who need a ride home are asked to have their ride pick them up from the Circle Drive in front of the middle school.



Art Corner

There is an Art Contest available to all middle school students! To celebrate Youth Art Month (in March 2025), the council for art education wants to offer a Flag Design Contest to all school aged students. They are looking for a flag that shows the theme, "Healing Through Color." Within the design, they want to see the word "Wisconsin" and "Youth Art Month" plus things that represent Wisconsin. See Mrs. Schlatter for specific paper for your design and an artwork release form because your flag might be shown in Louisville, Kentucky at the National Art Convention! Flag designs are due to Mrs. Schlatter by Wednesday, November 20th.

Students who entered the De Pere Lion's Club Peace Poster Contest will be notified mid-November if they are a winner! Good luck to all that entered.

We started Art Club just 2 weeks ago! If you are still interested in joining, we meet every Monday, after school until 3:30pm in Mrs. Schlatter's Art room (306). Hope to see you there. If you have any questions, please contact me at: tschlatter@wdpsd.com

November Art Club Dates: 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th

"If I create from the heart, nearly everything works; if from the head, almost nothing." - Marc Chagall

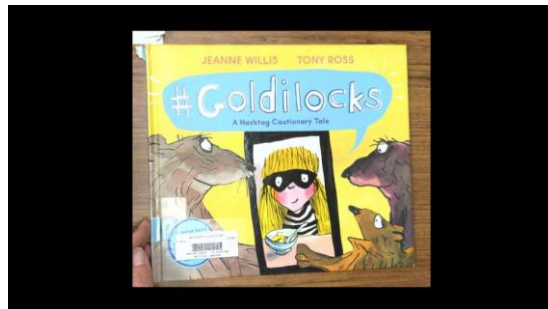
Important Middle School Dates

November 1	MS Dance	February 20	Parent Teacher Conferences 4-8 p.m.
November 6	Last Day of 1st Quarter	February 21	Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.
November 7	Athletic Grade Check	March 7	Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.
November 8	Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.	March 9	End of Trimester 2
November 11	7/8 Practice begins for Boys' Basketball	March 11	PTO Meeting @ IS 6:30 p.m.
November 14	Athletic Grade Check	March 14	MS Dance
November 19	PTO Meeting @ IS 6:30 p.m.	March 18	MS Art Show 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
November 22	Athletic Picture Day Boys' Basketball	March 21	Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.
November 26	Athletic Grade Check	March 24—March 28	No School (Spring Vacation)
November 27	Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.	April 2	Last Day of 3rd Quarter
November 28 & 29	No School	April 7	Practice begins for 7/8 Track 3:00-4:15 p.m.
December 1	End of Trimester 1	April 8	PTO Meeting @ MS 6:30 p.m.
December 2-6	Fall Spirit Week	April 9	Practice begins for 6th Track 3:00-4:15 p.m.
December 6	Fall Pep Assembly	April 10-12	MS Spring Musical
December 10	PTO Meeting @ MS 6:30 p.m.	April 16	Athletic Picture Day Track
December 10	MS Winter Choir Concert at HS 7:00 p.m.	April 17	Athletic Grade Check
December 12	Athletic Grade Check	April 18	No School
December 17	MS Winter Band Concert at HS 7:00 p.m.	May 1	Athletic Grade Check
Dec. 23—31	No School (Winter Break)	May 2	Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.
January 1	No School	May 2	MS Talent Show 7 p.m.
January 2	Practice begins for 5-8 th Gr. Wrestling @ IS	May 5-9	Spring Spirit Week
January 9	Athletic Grade Check	May 9	Spring Pep Assembly
January 9	Athletic Picture Day Wrestling	May 13	PTO Meeting @ IS 6:30 p.m.
January 14	PTO Meeting @ IS 6:30 p.m.	May 15	Athletic Grade Check
January 20	No School	May 19	Spring Band Concert @ HS
January 22	Last Day of 2nd Quarter	May 22	7 th & 8 th Gr. @ 7 p.m.
January 22	Last Day of Semester 1	May 26	Spring Choir Concert @ HS
January 23	Athletic Grade Check	June 4	7 th & 8 th Gr. @ 7 p.m.
January 24	MS Dance	May 26	No School (Memorial Day)
February 6	Athletic Grade Check	June 4	Memorial Day Parade—7 th & 8 th Gr. Band
February 11	PTO Meeting @ MS 6:30 p.m.	June 6	8 th Gr. Promotion – 7 p.m.
February 17	6 th Boys & Girls Basketball Begins	June 6	Last Day of School/Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.
February 18	5 th Boys & Girls Basketball Begins		
February 20	Athletic Grade Check		

Library News - October Recap

October was a busy month in the library! So far this school year 2,122 books have been checked out. Ask your student what they are reading; they may even have a recommendation for you! We have had many visitors during QRS and recess, coming in to either do homework, read, fix the puzzle, unwind at the Lego wall, or play games. The featured activity of the month was ghost decorating - to encourage others to “Read More Boooks.”

During October the library also celebrated “Keeping Kids Safe Online” month. Students reflected on media balance and heard a story about oversharing. You may recall seeing information on the middle school Facebook page with family tips as well. We concluded the monthlong theme with a community showing of *Screenagers*. Now that October is past, we encourage you to keep the conversations about online safety going throughout the year.



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:

5th Grade: Boys & Girls Cross Country (Fall)

Boys & Girls Intramural Basketball & Wrestling (Winter)

6th Grade: Soccer & Cross Country (Fall)

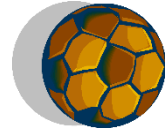
Boys & Girls Intramural Basketball & Wrestling (Winter)

Boys & Girls Track & Field (Spring)

7th & 8th 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 1st as the earliest date) on or after April 1st of 2023. This is the only paper form that will be received.
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:

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, Parents, Parent Notification and follow instructions.

PLEASE GO TO 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, click on Middle School then Athletics, then Bay Conference Tutorial Sheet.

Choir News

On Friday, September 20 six of our eighth-grade choir students joined over 1200 singers from all over the state of Wisconsin for an all-day singing festival at UW Milwaukee called "Sing out!". They gave up their afternoon off on an early release day to be a part of this event and they did a wonderful job. The Middle School boys who participated were: James Elst, Eli Graham, Josiah Raebe, Kai Rodriguez, Wyatt VenHuizen and Seth Worzala.

Here are a couple of pictures of our middle school group and then the entire group of middle level singers on stage:

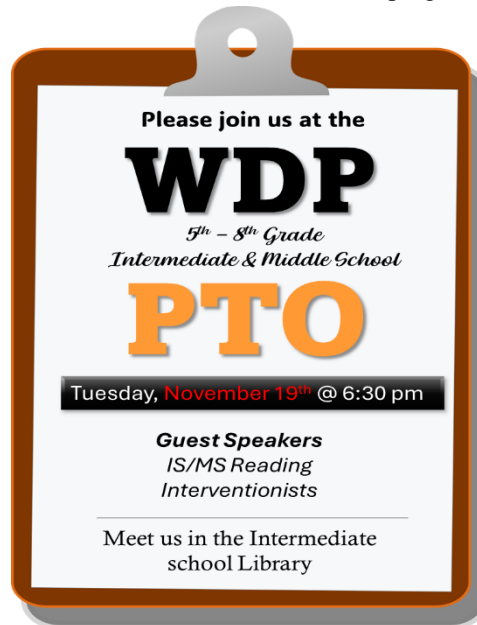
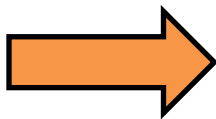


Grades 7-8 Careers/Entrepreneur/Family and Consumer Sciences



PATCH, the calf adopted by Family and Consumer Sciences became a part of our West De Pere family on Tuesday, October 15, 2024. She was born on September 7, 2024, weighing 106 # and was 29.5 inches in height. Our host farm is Schleis Farm, LLC, which is a dairy farm established in 1916 in Kewaunee, Wisconsin. Farmer Tasha Schleis will be taking good care of our adopted calf and she will provide updates regarding PATCH throughout the school year. Periodically pictures of Patch will be displayed on the big screen at lunch. We are excited to follow her journey on the farm while learning more about dairy farming and where milk comes from. We are thankful that our school has been chosen for this program

Please join the WDP
5th – 8th Grade PTO for their next meeting at the
Intermediate School.



Please join us at the
WDP
5th – 8th Grade
Intermediate & Middle School
PTO
Tuesday, November 19th @ 6:30 pm
Guest Speakers
IS/MS Reading
Interventionists
Meet us in the Intermediate
school Library