

# WMS NEWSLETTER

## IMPORTANT DATES:

### APRIL

4/1-5  
Spring Break

4/9  
PSAT TESTING  
(8<sup>th</sup>)

4/11  
5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Transition Night

4/19  
NO SCHOOL

4/23  
PSAT Make Up  
Testing

\*MSTEP dates on  
page 2

### MAY

5/22  
Choir/Band  
Concert

5/24-27  
NO SCHOOL

5/30  
Send Off

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Happy spring! The weather is finally warming up as we approach spring break! I hope all of our families have a safe and relaxing spring break wherever your travels take you. If you're staying home this spring break, I would encourage you to take adventures around the area since there are many fun events occurring. If you haven't done so already you must check out the Whiting Forest, Midland Center for the Arts, City Market, and I could go on. The Tri Cities provides endless opportunities for enjoyment and learning.

It always seems time goes quickly when we return from spring break. Students will be taking the PSAT, MSTEP, and the NWEA as they round out the school year. All assessments are important indicators of student growth and demonstrate how all of our teamwork, between students, parents, and teachers, has paid off! Please encourage your child to do their personal best when taking these assessments so we can have an accurate picture of their success this school year.

I wish everyone a safe and relaxing spring break and look forward to an amazing end of the school year.

Mrs. Bailey

**"No winter lasts forever, and no spring skips its turn." ~Hal Borland**

## POLLINATION STATIONS...

You may have noticed that some of the 8th grade students have been working hard in our pollinator stations. Over the past 5 years, WMS students have installed two pollinator stations by the band room area and along the middle school front entrance. These pollinator stations were installed for pollinating insects, birds, bees, and bats. There has been a movement to install urban pollinator stations because as a society, we need pollinators for our agricultural economy and our food supply. Consequently, pollinators need us as well. With destruction of their natural habitat, pesticide and herbicide use, and climate changes, some species are struggling. Partnering with Pheasants Forever and SVSU, WMS is hoping to provide some native habitat for pollinators in the Auburn area. We cannot wait for the beautiful blooms of summer and our pollinators to return!

## **NWEA SCORES**

Students brought home their NWEA scores on Monday. Students with their ELA and Math teachers reviewed their scores and discussed possible goals for the rest of the school year. If you have not had an opportunity to sit down with your child and look at their report, please do so as many of their goals might reflect additional practice in either or both. I highly encourage parents to sit down with their children 20 minutes a day to listen to them read, read alongside of them, or read to them...even in the middle school.

## **PSAT TESTING**

Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taking the PSAT Test on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. We will complete all make up testing on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The PSAT will replace the MSTEP ELA and Math portion. The purpose of the PSAT is to establish a starting point in terms of college and career readiness as students transition to high school. The PSAT is a timed test, giving students 2 hours and 40 minutes and includes questions in the areas of Math, Reading, Writing, and Language. This once again is not a test that students can study for, however they can take some time over the Spring Break to look at practice questions...

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/practice/full-length-practice-tests>

## **MSTEP TESTING**

We will begin MSTEP Testing the week we return from Spring Break. The testing dates, grade level testing, and content are listed below. Since there is no way to study for this test we ask parents to help students out by ensuring your child gets a good night's rest before testing, starting the day on a positive note, eats a healthy breakfast, and sending them off to school with encouraging words. If your child would like to review MSTEP like questions they can visit: <https://wbte.drccdirect.com/MI/portals/mi>

### **TESTING DATES**

April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

April 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>

April 29<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>

May 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

### **GRADE LEVEL**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade

8<sup>th</sup> Grade

6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **CONTENT**

Social Studies Testing

Science Field Testing

Math Testing

ELA Testing

## **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SEND OFF CELEBRATION**

If you haven't done so already, please reserve your spot for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Send Off Celebration. Students can pick up the reservation forms in the attendance office.

Celebration: Valley Plaza Great Hall/ 5221 Bay City Road, Midland

Date: Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> 4:30 PM-8:00 PM

Agenda: Buffet Dinner, Award Ceremony, Student

Cost: \$18.00 per student and each adult guest (18 yrs or older) attending

## **WESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL GENERAL INFORMATION**

**OFFICE HOURS:** 7:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

**INSTRUCTIONAL DAY:** 7:30 A.M. – 2:09 P.M.

**MAIN OFFICE:** (989) 662-4489

**ATTENDANCE OFFICE:** (989) 662-0416

# Happening at WMS...

## **English Department**

In the sixth grade, students are finishing up a fantasy literature unit and will be moving onto a literary analysis when they return from spring break. Seventh grade students are finishing their novel *The Mystery at Blackbeard's Cove* and they plan on beginning an informational essay after break. Lastly, the eighth grade students are reading *The Giver* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Students will continue reading after break and then dive into an argument writing unit.

## **Science Department**

Students at all grade levels can be found using hands-on labs to help better understand their Mi-Star units. 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students are collaborating in many classes. Mrs. Vandriessche's students will kick off with the Saginaw Bay Reef Restoration Project and Mrs. Manwell's classes just finished dissecting deer hearts.

## **Math Department**

Mrs. Dean's seventh graders are hard at work learning algebraic expressions and will soon move on to algebraic equations. In Algebra, students just finished the basics of polynomials and quadratic equations. They will start solving more complex problems involving quadratics after break.

## **Art Department**

Mrs. Brown's 6th and 7th grade art classes are wrapping up their rotation with artist talks where they stand up and speak to the class about their art projects. After break 8th grade students will begin their clay unit. They are wrapping up work on their Agam and mandala projects.

## **Music Department**

The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Choirs are busy working toward their spring concert which will take place on May 22nd at 6:00 P.M. They will be signing a show called "Encore", which is a 35 minutes melody of popular songs from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This will be Mrs. Keenan's final concert, capping off a phenomenal 33 year teaching career.

Band students are also hard at work preparing for a concert on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 PM. The Jazz Band will be performing at Alma College on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:50 AM

Cont...

# **Happening at WMS Continued....**

## **Foreign Language Department**

Sixth grade French classes are creating posters of a French speaking country and including weather elements. In addition they will be creating weather forecasts in French.

Spanish students are learning about the geoculture of Texas. They learned about the geography, art, architecture, food and celebrations found in the state. They have been learning how to conjugate -ar verbs in the present tense. They have also begun learning the conjugations for the following irregular verbs, ir (to go) and jugar (to play).

## **Social Studies Department**

Mr. Mika's sixth grade classes are currently studying Mexico, learning about its geography, history, culture, and present day conditions. They will soon be moving on to Central America and the Caribbean. In eighth grade history, students are studying the Industrial Revolution, centering around Child Labor Laws and how it impacts the economy. After break they will begin to learn about the causes of the Civil War.

## **Technology Department**

6th grade Computers/Technology just wrapped up their digital citizenship unit. They are now working on oral and written presentation skills using Microsoft PowerPoint. 7th grade recently finished learning about plagiarism and copyright issues. They are now working on Everfi-Ignition, which is a program sponsored by the Detroit Red Wings. Issues discussed in Everfi-Ignition include: open source software, the "cloud," cyberbullying, internet resources/credibility, texting while driving, cell phone signals, careers in technology, and many more!