



# Middle School Newsletter

## December, 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.

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Dear WDP Middle School Families,

Things to share to start the month of December include...

#### Students of the Month

##### *September*

7<sup>th</sup> grade – Burke Steward

8<sup>th</sup> grade – Adrian Perez

Encore – Tru Metoxen

##### *October*

7<sup>th</sup> grade – Kylie Schnurer

8<sup>th</sup> grade – Logan Sprang

Encore – Lilly Keehan

##### *November*

7<sup>th</sup> grade – Ava Winters

8<sup>th</sup> grade – Mason Padgett

Encore – Grant Fuss

#### Weather-Related School Information

When the temperature outside dips below zero degrees (actual temperature or wind chill) we do not take the students outside for recess and do allow them to come into the building immediately upon arrival in the morning. When making our temperature (or wind chill) determination, we rely upon The Weather Channel (<http://www.weather.com>). Please also keep in mind that much of our supervision staff does not start their work/school day until 7:25am, which is also the earliest time that students should be on campus in the morning.

#### Cash Drive Fundraiser

The WDP 5-8 PTO launched a cash drive fundraiser event that ran for the entire month of November. This was the second consecutive year that a fundraiser event of that nature was held. Amazingly, over \$10,000 was raised across grades 5-8 for this event thanks to the countless donations from parents, extended family members, and family friends. That is an impressive amount of money! Past examples of things the 5-8 PTO has generously provided for the middle school, partially made possible by events such as the cash fundraiser, include: turning yellow school buses into coach buses for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year-end field trip to WI Dells, reducing student cost for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade year-end field trip to a local trampoline park, purchasing a GaGa ball pit for the playground, providing dinner for teachers during parent-teacher conferences, sponsoring a reception and dance associated with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion event, and countless other requests from teachers that enrich student experiences at school. THANK YOU 5-8 PTO and THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to this year's cash fundraiser. We appreciate it!

#### Lots of stuff going on!

Upon our immediate return from Thanksgiving break we have spirit week at school. Students are allowed/encouraged to dress creatively on certain days that includes things like pajama day (Mon), sports jersey day (Tue), wacky day (Wed), neon day (Thu), and Phantom day (Fri). Spirit week culminates on Friday with an all-school pep assembly that includes choir, drumline, dance team performances, student recognitions, a drawing to see what advisory is the grand winner for recently played CLUE game, and a good old-fashioned game of musical chairs! For the musical chairs event, one student will represent each advisory and one lucky advisory will win a catered breakfast or lunch of their choice. It's also that time of year for holiday concerts and both the choir and band will perform at our high school auditorium. The choir date is Tuesday, December 10 and the band date is the following Tuesday, December 17. Then before you know it, the holiday break will have arrived!

Warm wishes for the holiday season,

James Finley, PhD

## Phantom Phundamentals Update

Citizenship, Compassion, Courage, Fairness, Honesty, Pride, Respect, Responsibility, Unity

### 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 is an example of a way that our students are demonstrating strong character.

**Gia Kussow & Na'hea Noggle, Grade 7**, displayed **COMPASSION** when they knew a teacher was out of school for a family members surgery. They left kind notes on the teacher's desk and came in right away the next day to see how it went and checked in later in the week to see how the recovery was going.

**Abraham Solis, Grade 8**, displayed **COMPASSION** when he tried helping a peer on an ELA assignment without being asked.

## Winter Choir Concert

The Middle School Winter Choir concert will be held at the High School Auditorium on Tuesday, Dec. 10. The concert will take place from 7:00-8:15 p.m. Students need to wear black on the bottom and white on top with an optional red accent (tie, scarf, sweater etc.) and should ideally have black shoes for the concert. All outfits need to follow the school dress code. Choir students will also be rehearsing at the High School during the school day on Tuesday, Dec. 10 so please avoid scheduling appointments that day if at all possible. The evening concert is free to the public and there is no limit on the number of seats that will be available to each family. Middle School choir students should be in their warm-up spaces between 6:30-6:40 p.m. in order to take attendance, warm-up and line up to start the concert. The 8th grade warm up room is in the High School Choir Room and the 7th grade warm up room is in the Mirror Room. This is a required performance for students in choir.



## West De Pere Middle School 7th and 8th Grade Holiday Band Concert

The West De Pere Middle School 7th and 8th Grade Holiday Band Concert will take place on Tuesday, December 17th, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM in the High School Auditorium! Join us for a festive evening of holiday music performed by our talented students, with special guest appearances adding extra cheer. Students should wear all black attire, ideally with black shoes, and can add a festive touch of red, such as a scarf or tie. This free event is open to the public, so bring your friends and family! After the concert, continue the celebration in the High School Commons, where the Middle School Jazz Band will perform while punch and cookies are served. Don't miss this heartwarming night of music and holiday spirit!

## Art Corner

The winner for the De Pere Lion's Poster Contest was 8th grader, Loshini Nagidi. She won a cash prize and her winning poster will be moving on to the district level of competition. She will also get to enjoy a dinner in late February where she will be recognized at the Lion's Club meeting that night. Congratulations to Loshini and to all that entered. Mrs. Schlatter will hand them back to you soon.

Last month, we had 2 different art contests offered to students to participate in. One was offered for students to write or draw about how important the 1st Amendment meant to them. The other one was having students create a coloring sheet for Hilly Haven Golf Course. We hope to hear soon if anyone from our school is a winner!

Art Club has been busy working with clay and will eventually paint them and give them as presents. Look for the presents during our Holiday break! December Art Club Dates: 2nd, 9th and 16th. After the new year, Art Club is on Monday, January 6th. If you are still interested in participating, feel free to come any Monday that works for you. Contact Mrs. Schlatter at [tschlatter@wdpsd.com](mailto:tschlatter@wdpsd.com) if you have any questions. Happy Holidays!

*"No great artist ever sees things as they really are. If he did he would cease to be an artist" - Oscar Wilde*

## Important Middle School Dates

December 1	End of Trimester 1
December 2-6	Fall Spirit Week
December 6	Fall Pep Assembly
December 10	PTO Meeting @ Margarita's 6:00 p.m.
December 10	MS Winter Choir Concert at HS 7:00 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
January 24	MS Dance
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 14	MS Dance
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 6th 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 5-9	Spring Spirit Week
May 9	Spring Pep Assembly
May 13	PTO Meeting @ IS 6:30 p.m.
May 15	Athletic Grade Check
May 19	Spring Band Concert @ HS 7th & 8th Gr. @ 7 p.m.
May 22	Spring Choir Concert @ HS 7th & 8th 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 4	8th Gr. Promotion – 7 p.m.
June 6	Last Day of School/Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.

## From Your WDP Libraries: A Holiday Gift Guide to Inspire, Learn, and Play!

As the holiday season approaches, the WDP library staff is excited to share a curated **Holiday Gift Guide** packed with thoughtful, educational gifts that spark curiosity and creativity! This guide includes:



**Books:** These selections are some of the top books in our libraries! The lists are broken down by grade level, include fiction and nonfiction titles, and are perfect for fostering a love of reading.



**STEAM Toys:** Hands-on fun with science, technology, engineering, art, and math! Think coding kits, building sets, and art supplies that encourage innovation and creation!

These gifts are perfect for engaging your child during the holiday season. Access our Favorite Books/Tech Guide by going to <https://bit.ly/WDPHoliday> or scanning the QR code below!



Warm holiday wishes,  
Your West De Pere Librarians

## 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)

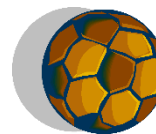
Boys & Girls Intramural Basketball & Wrestling (Winter)

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:**

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.

## French Club News



West De Pere Middle School celebrated National French Week from November 11-15! French Club students met after school on Thursday, November 7, to participate in a state-wide French trivia Kahoot challenge, listen to a panel of French high school students talk about their French experiences in WDP as well as their experiences as high school students, and enjoy pains au chocolat (chocolate filled croissants)! For each day of National French Week, students had the opportunity to participate in a daily trivia contest. Here were the trivia questions, responses, and winners for the week:

Monday's question: The Louvre art museum located in Paris, France is the largest art museum in the world. Approximately how many works of art are on display there?

Monday's response: approximately 35,000 works of art

Monday's winner: Seth Worzala

Tuesday's question: Snails are a popular food in France, and it is estimated that approximately 25,000 tons of snails are eaten each year in France. For which holiday are the French most likely to enjoy their snails?

Tuesday's response: Christmas

Tuesday's winner: Sawyer VenHuizen

Wednesday's question: In 2016, France implemented a law making it illegal for French supermarkets to do what?

Wednesday's response: It is illegal for French supermarkets to throw out or destroy unsold food products. Unsold food must be donated to charity; this law was implemented in an effort to reduce the amount of food waste throughout the country.

Wednesday's winner: Myles Coppens

Thursday's question: Invented in the early 2000's, which board game is named for a French city in southern France known for its medieval city walls?

Thursday's response: Carcassonne

Thursday's winner: Aiden Wadzinski

Friday's question: What is the name of the French organization known for its humanitarian efforts to provide medical care in conflict zones and in countries experiencing disease outbreaks or natural disasters?

Friday's response: Doctors without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières)

Friday's winner: Kellen Norwood

Students also had the opportunity to participate in a mystery "French" staff member challenge. For each day of the week, a different staff member was the designated "French" staff member, and students were challenged to be the first one to greet the mystery person in French. Here were the mystery French staff members and student winners for the week.

Monday's French staff member: Mr. Marto

Monday's winner: Becca Muellenbach

Tuesday's French staff member: Mrs. DeVillers

Tuesday's winner: Anthony Vissers

Wednesday's French staff member: Mrs. Counard

Wednesday's winner: Natalie Finger

Thursday's French staff member: Mrs. Thiessen

Thursday's winner: Anthony Vissers

Friday's French staff member: Mrs. Blanchard

Friday's winner: Seth Worzala

Thank you to all who participated in National French Week activities and for making it a success!

The next French Club event will be a holiday party after school on Thursday, December 5. Students will meet in the Middle School library after school. Students who need a ride home should have a ride arranged to pick them up at 3:45 from the Circle Drive in front of the Middle School.



## Spelling Bee 2024-25

The 2024-25 Spelling Bee is underway. Did you know the National Spelling Bee has been around for over **90 years**? Get ready because the tradition will continue at West De Pere Middle School.



During the week of Nov. 11-15, advisory teachers kicked off the classroom level school-wide spelling bee. Students spelled 25 words in the hopes to advance to the next round.

In the upcoming weeks, results from those classroom bees will determine who moves on to the Grade Level Bee. The Grade Level Bee will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 4. Seventh and eighth graders will compete to narrow down their competition to the top four spellers in each grade. These eight spellers will move to the District Level Bee for a chance to represent their building as the Middle School Spelling Bee Champion.

Watch for more spelling bee updates in the January newsletter. We look forward to continuing our school tradition of offering the Spelling Bee.

### WDP 5-8 PTO

Please join the WDP 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade PTO for their holiday gathering on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> (6:00 pm.) at Margarita's.

