



# Middle School Newsletter

## February, 2025



### 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,

Greetings. I hope 2025 has gotten off to a great start for you and your family. Something occurred at school yesterday, January 30, that has never occurred previously in my 33-year career (that I can remember) – a fire drill in the month of January...made possible by an unusually high temperature outside in the mid 50's! More good news to share includes:

#### Grades 7-8 Spelling Bee Champion



*Anthony Vissers, grade 8*

Way to go Anthony!

Good Luck in the regional competition!!

#### Parent/Teacher Conferences

Conferences will be held on **Thursday, February 20, 4:00pm-8:00pm**. Individual conference sessions will be 10 minutes in length and offered as an in-person event. Please follow the directions below to register. Should this date/time not work for you, please contact your child's teacher directly to set up alternate day/time. The window of time to access conference scheduling on our website will start at **6:00am on Wednesday, February 12** and will remain open until **noon on Wednesday, February 19**. To register follow these directions:

- Go to [www.wdpsd.com](http://www.wdpsd.com), then click on Middle School → Parent Info → Conferences.
- Follow the directions for scheduling a conference as a parent through Conference Manager.
  - First, you will need to register for an account. After that, you will be able to sign in with the email address and password, you created.
  - When you register, add the names of all your children and the school to which they attend.
  - Select the conference that you wish to attend.
  - Select the teachers you would like to meet with.
  - Select the time slot you would like for each teacher.
  - Click on the **My Conferences** tab to review, edit, or print your schedule.
- Once you register, you should receive an email from Conference Manager.

#### Lost and Found

As is typical this time of year, our lost and found is overflowing with various clothing and other items. On or around Monday, February 24 we will empty our lost and found containers and take all items to Goodwill or some other similar organization for donation. Should your son or daughter be missing certain items and you suspect that they might be in our lost and found, feel free to stop by school soon to look through what we have.

Sincerely,  
James Finley, Ph.D.

## Phantom Phundamentals Update

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.

*Carter Lor, Grade 7, displayed Honesty when he found a pair of AirPods outside during recess and turned them into the office.*

*Isaiah Stegall, Grade 8, shows Compassion. Isaiah is ALWAYS willing to help me in the classroom or ANY student in the classroom. He shows students where to put things or helps them with their projects. Awesome to see!*



## Phone Numbers/Emergency Contact Information

Please help us keep your child(ren)'s emergency information up-to-date. Remember to always let us know when you change phone numbers, cell phone numbers and work numbers. It is also important to have some contact people listed when we can't reach you in case of an emergency. You may call us (337-1099) or stop by the office and change the information anytime.

## UWGB Phuture Phoenix Tutoring

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students! If you would like to have a college age tutor here at school this semester, please sign up in the office. You can do so through February 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

The Knights of Columbus sponsored a Free Throw Contest in January at our school. We had such overwhelming participation that we needed to hold it over 2 days and by grade level! Second place finishers include Kolton Berman, Bennett Bradley, Trevor Butterfield, Lukas Cortes, Harper Dernbach, Khloe Hannula, Cooper Heck, Oswin Kraft, Carter Lange, and Adalyn Weber. First place finishers will go on to compete at the next level of competition on March 15th and include Hattie Aitken, Armani Bellisle, Case Berggren, Nora Cochart, Christian Ebert, Olivia Hoffman, and Mckinley Kimps. Congratulations to all of our participants and a huge thank you to the Knights of Columbus for their continued support of our school!

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir "The Lion King" Trip

Some students from our 8th grade choir were able to attend a performance of the Broadway musical "The Lion King" at the Appleton P.A.C. on Friday, Jan. 17. The show was wonderful and the students had a great time.



## Important Middle School Dates

February 6	Athletic Grade Check
February 11	PTO Meeting @ MS 6:30 p.m.
February 20	Athletic Grade Check
February 20	Parent Teacher Conferences 4-8 p.m.
February 21	Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.
February 25	5 <sup>th</sup> Boys & Girls Basketball Begins
February 26	6 <sup>th</sup> Boys & Girls Basketball Begins
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 10-12	MS Spring Musical
April 14	Practice begins for 6th Track 3:00-4:15 p.m.

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.

## Forensics

Our 2024-25 Forensics practices are in full swing! Forensics competitions involve students presenting memorized speeches, performing dramatic readings, or engaging in debates on current events or hypothetical issues. Students are judged on their speaking abilities, clarity of thought, and the effectiveness of their arguments and our students have worked hard this Forensics season. We will be competing in Level 1 at Bay View Middle School and Level 2 at Edison Middle School. Good luck!



## French Club News

French Club students got together after school on January 16 for the French Club movie event! Students enjoyed treats and the French movie *A Cat in Paris*. February's French Club event will be held on Thursday, February 13 after school until 3:45 p.m. We will be celebrating Mardi Gras! Students will need to be picked up from the Circle Drive in front of the Middle School at 3:45 p.m.



## Dental Clinic Coming to West De Pere Schools! Feb. 25th & 26th

No-cost dental care for students who are covered under ForwardHealth, Medicaid, BadgerCare, or who are uninsured. Contact your school social worker if you are interested in signing your child up for this program, Sabrina Esala (920-639-0519) or Heather Propson (920-655-6267). Healthy teeth, healthy kids!



## 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)

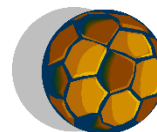
Boys & Girls Intramural Basketball & Wrestling (Winter)

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!**



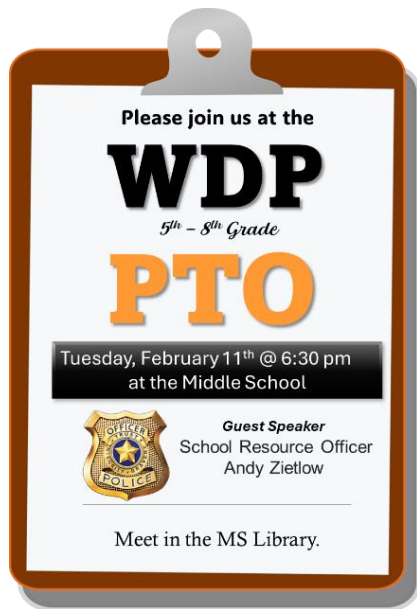
### **Important Dates for the 2024-2025 Athletic Year:**

February 25	5th Boys & Girls Basketball Begins, 3-4:30, Boys (MS Gym), Girls (WW Gym)
February 26	6th Boys & Girls Basketball Begins, 3-4:30, Boys (MS Gym), Girls (IS 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 14	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.



## WDP 5-8 PTO

Please join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the middle school library.

## Middle Level Honor Choir

Congratulations to four 8th grade choir students who were selected to be a part of this year's WCDA (Wisconsin Choral Directors Association) All-State Middle Level Honor Choir. They worked with an internationally known conductor/clinician (Chris Maunu) on Friday, Jan. 10 and Saturday, Jan. 11 in Appleton. They performed their concert at Lawrence University Memorial Chapel in the afternoon of Jan. 11. Good job to these talented singers!



## Middle School Spelling Bee Finalist

Finalists from grade-level spelling bees took part in the 2024-25 District-Wide Spelling Bee at the Middle School on Friday, January 10th. There were 21 spellers, from grades 3-8, who made it to the district level round. Spellers were well-prepared and many words were spelled. Congratulations to all who participated in the District Bee, but a special recognition goes to the Middle School Champion, 8th grader Anthony Vissers. Anthony will go on to compete in the regional spelling bee at Kewaunee Elementary School on Monday, February 10th. Good Luck Anthony!

## Art Corner

The Women's Club of De Pere will be hosting the Helen Mears Art Contest. Mrs. Schlatter will pick out high quality artwork to be submitted to compete against other De Pere Middle Schools in 2-D and 3-D categories. If there are students who would like to participate and have done work at home or artwork that was created earlier this school year, artwork can be turned into Mrs. Schlatter by February 14th. The awards presentation for winners will be held on Wednesday, March 12th at the De Pere Community Center at 1:30pm. Student winners will be notified by March 10th. Good Luck!

Youth Art Month is celebrated in March and these 5 students were chosen to have their artwork **displayed at the Neville Museum from January 25 - February 23**: Caroline Bazile, Ava Gage, Katlin Heneghan, Giselle Messou and Alex Vannieuwenhoven. Congratulations to these amazing artists and I hope you can make it to the Neville Museum to see their artwork!

The Middle School Art Show will be held on Tuesday, March 18th. Mrs. Schlatter saves student artwork throughout the year and displays them in the Middle School Commons from 6-6:45pm. Students perform songs and the Jazz Band plays. There is also face painting and cookies. This event is free and for the entire family to enjoy! Mark your calendars and we will see you in March!

We hope to hear the winner of the Yearbook Cover Contest soon!

*"The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance." - Aristotle*

## Golf Club

Are you interested in joining the Middle School Golf Club (6th-8th)? There will be a parent meeting held in **April (exact date will be shared in next month's newsletter)**. You will meet the coach, Kyle VenHuizen and the coordinator, Terri Schlatter. The meeting will last approximately 15-30 minutes, depending on the amount of questions. We will go over much of what is said in the newsletter below.

Students wanting to join Golf Club must complete a concussion & insurance form, a physical form must be turned into the office and the code of conduct completed. If your student has been in a different sport in the past year, most likely all of these things are completed. Golf club will be held on Mondays, Tuesday OR Thursdays at Hilly Haven Golf Course at their Lil' Haven area. Practice will be held once a week for each student from 4:00pm-5:00pm. They will work on hitting, putting and chipping as well as golf etiquette and the cost to students will be \$25 each. Space is limited to 12 participants for each of the M, T or Th practices, so it will be a "first come, first serve" for registration with registration dates shared in next month's newsletter. Golf Club lasts approximately **4 weeks with a starting date of Monday, May 5th, Tuesday, May 6th OR Thursday, May 8th**. Coach Kyle waits to start Golf Club into May because the weather is still so unpredictable and he wants the best opportunity for the golfers with the best weather possible.



If you have any questions, please reach out to Mrs. Schlatter at [tschlatter@wdpsd.com](mailto:tschlatter@wdpsd.com) or coach Kyle at [kvenhuizen@wdpsd.com](mailto:kvenhuizen@wdpsd.com) and we would be happy to answer any questions.

## Tennis Club

Want to learn a new skill, get some exercise, and have fun? Join the WDP Middle School Tennis Club! No matter your skill level, we welcome you to join. Experienced players will hone their skills, while those new to tennis will learn the fundamentals in a fun and supportive environment. Everyone participates, and there are no cuts!

There will be an informational meeting held on Thursday, March 6 at 6:30pm in the Middle School Commons. This meeting is not required but encouraged for all guardians/parents and players, especially if you have questions about the Tennis Club season. Practices will start the week of March 31st at the West De Pere High School Tennis Courts. The schedule for the season will be posted in early March.

In order to participate the following forms must be completed in Powerschool: concussion agreement, code and rules video, and emergency medical information including insurance. Information on this can be found on the West De Pere Middle School website (Athletics → Forms). **Students must have a current physical exam paper copy on file (on/after April 1, 2023) in the MS office.**

Sign up by Friday, March 7 in Powerschool (Forms → Enrollment → 5. Co-Curricular Activities). Please reach out to [MSTennis@wdpsd.com](mailto:MSTennis@wdpsd.com) with any questions.