



# Middle School Newsletter

## January, 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,

Happy New Year! Upon return from the winter break, we enter into one of the longest stretches of uninterrupted school days in our school calendar. I encourage parents to find a moment in early January to talk to their child about starting the new year off on the right foot – being ready to “get back to work” after all of the holiday festivities and an (almost) two-week break from school are over. Other things to share include:

#### Spelling Bee

Grade level spelling bees were conducted during the month of December. Middle School students moving on to the all-district final include:

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> grade | 8 <sup>th</sup> grade |
| Prayag Deepak         | Gavin Izarraraz-Dyer  |
| Ella Holtger          | Anthony Vissers       |
| Riley Kass            | Tyler Wagner          |
| Ava Winters           | Isla Wurm             |

The all-district spelling bee final, which includes students from Hemlock Creek and Westwood Elementary Schools, will be held on Friday, January 10, 2025. The winner will then move on to the Green Bay/Kewaunee Regional Competition after that. Good luck to all contestants!

#### Thankfulness

Sometimes, some people tend to focus on what they don't have, rather than what they do have. Conversation can often focus on the proverbial glass being half empty instead of being half full. To start the New Year, it might be interesting to you ask your child – What are you thankful for? I started my own list (in no particular order) ...

1. **Good health.** Enough said.
2. **Family.** Even if it's dysfunctional, they usually have your back.
3. **Laughter.** To balance out all the tough times during the day.
4. **Sunshine.** A lifetime of winters/gray seasons spent in Wisconsin has taught me this.
5. **People who are good listeners.** I automatically have greater confidence in anything they say.
6. **Weekends.** Relaxation.
7. **Generosity.** Allows me to witness and experience another great character trait...appreciation.
8. **Music from the 70's and 80's.** If music back then vs. music now was a football game, the score would be 100-0 in favor of music back then.
9. **Law enforcement, military, and veterans.** They step in harm's way so I don't have to.
10. **Health care workers.** Anyone who has ever been seriously ill 100% knows this.
11. **My education.** It has opened doors for me in life that would have otherwise been closed had I not pursued it.
12. **Golf.** Exercise, honesty, patience, strategy, frustration, euphoria, and fresh air all at the same time.
13. **Money in the bank.** A wise person once told me if money can fix the problem, it's really not that big of a deal.
14. **Forgiveness.** Reminds me all the time to be a better person.
15. **Air conditioning.** Staying cool on a hot day is something people from centuries ago could only dream about.
16. **My children.** Their presence regularly reminds me of my #1 job in life.
17. **Honesty.** One of the most important factors to consider when assessing someone's character.
18. **Art.** Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. A great guiding principle in life I think.
19. **People who shovel and salt their sidewalks.** Makes walking and running outside in the winter still possible.
20. **Eyesight and hearing.** How different is life for people without these two things that so many of us take for granted?

#### Lost and Found

As is typical this time of year, our lost and found is overflowing with various clothing and other items. On Friday, January 17, 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 the first couple weeks of January to look through what we have.

Best wishes for the New Year,

James Finley, PhD

## 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.

**Liam Gilson, Grade 8:** Displayed **COMPASSION**. A student's Chromebook needed charging, and the teacher's charger was being used, so Liam offered for the student to use his.

**Trent Kelley, Grade 8:** Displayed **RESPONSIBILITY**. Trent knew he was going to be absent, so he got his assignments ahead of time and even finished them before the days he missed.

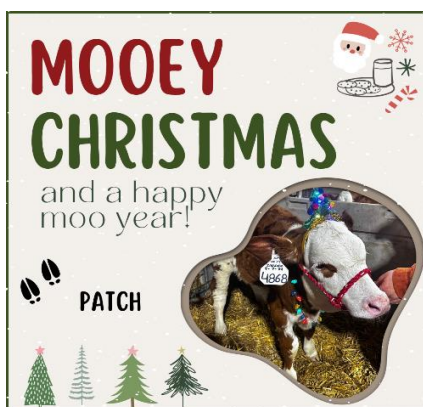
## Knights of Columbus Knowledge Contest

Are you interested in participating in a Math or Spelling Contest to show off your Math and/or Spelling Knowledge? The Knights of Columbus host these prestigious tests right here at West De Pere Middle School! Each test will take 30 minutes and will be held after school on January 13th, 2025. You are eligible to take the math test, spelling, test, or both tests! You must sign up in advance by January 9th through the Google Form that each student was sent. First through fifth place in each test will be awarded a certificate and a prize. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Hagel at [mhagel@wdpsd.com](mailto:mhagel@wdpsd.com). Good luck!

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



Students in Ms. De Villers' 8th grade Family and Consumer Science classes made 220 + bird feeders for the nonprofit organization, "Fighting Cancer with Grace," established and facilitated by senior Grace Fuss. Country Visions graciously donated all of the bird seed and the staff contributed ribbon and trim. The gifts were given to those currently receiving cancer treatments. A great deal of collaboration was essential to complete the project and ChatGPT was a useful source to problem solve challenges along the way. Thank you, Grace, for allowing our students to participate in your efforts to brighten the day of those battling cancer. Phantoms...Priceless! Check out <https://bit.ly/WDPMSbirdfeeders> to see the kids in action!



Our adopted calf now weighs 205 pounds and is 34 inches in height. Our host farm is Schleis Farm, LLC, which is a dairy farm established in 1916 in Kewaunee, Wisconsin. Farmer Tasha Schleis is taking good care of our adopted calf and she has been providing updates regarding PATCH that are periodically displayed on the big screen at lunch. Thank you, Tasha Schleis, for choosing our school!

## Important Middle School Dates

|                   |  |             |  |
|-------------------|--|-------------|--|
| January 1         | No School  | April 2     | Last Day of 3rd Quarter  |
| January 2         | Practice begins for 5-8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Wrestling @ IS | April 7     | Practice begins for 7/8 Track 3:00-4:15 p.m.                   |
| January 9         | Athletic Grade Check                                     | April 8     | PTO Meeting @ MS 6:30 p.m.                                     |
| January 9         | Athletic Picture Day Wrestling                           | April 10-12 | MS Spring Musical  |
| January 14        | PTO Meeting @ IS 6:30 p.m.                               | April 14    | Practice begins for 6th Track 3:00-4:15 p.m.                   |
| January 20        | No School  | April 16    | Athletic Picture Day Track                                     |
| January 22        | Last Day of 2nd Quarter                                  | April 17    | Athletic Grade Check   |
| January 22        | Last Day of Semester 1                                   | April 18    | No School  |
| January 23        | Athletic Grade Check                                     | May 1       | Athletic Grade Check   |
| January 24        | MS Dance   | May 2       | Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.                                     |
| February 6        | Athletic Grade Check                                     | May 2       | MS Talent Show 7 p.m.  |
| February 11       | PTO Meeting @ MS 6:30 p.m.                               | May 5-9     | Spring Spirit Week   |
| February 25       | 5 <sup>th</sup> Boys & Girls Basketball Begins           | May 9       | Spring Pep Assembly  |
| February 26       | 6 <sup>th</sup> Boys & Girls Basketball Begins           | May 13      | PTO Meeting @ IS 6:30 p.m.                                     |
| February 20       | Athletic Grade Check                                     | May 15      | Athletic Grade Check   |
| February 20       | Parent Teacher Conferences 4-8 p.m.                      | May 19      | Spring Band Concert @ HS                                       |
| February 21       | Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.                               | May 22      | 7th & 8th Gr. @ 7 p.m.   |
| March 7           | Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.                               | May 22      | Spring Choir Concert @ HS                                      |
| March 9           | End of Trimester 2                                       | May 26      | 7th & 8th Gr. @ 7 p.m.   |
| March 11          | PTO Meeting @ IS 6:30 p.m.                               | May 26      | No School (Memorial Day)                                       |
| March 14          | MS Dance   | May 26      | Memorial Day Parade—7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Band |
| March 18          | MS Art Show 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.                             | June 4      | 8th Gr. Promotion – 7 p.m.                                     |
| March 21          | Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.                               | June 6      | Last Day of School/Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.                  |
| March 24—March 28 | No School (Spring Vacation)                              |             |  |



## French Club News

The French Club met after school on Thursday, December 5 for the French Club holiday party! Students enjoyed bûche de Noël (traditional French Christmas cake), learned about French holiday traditions, listened to French carols, and made ornaments. January's event will be French movie night; students will watch the French movie *A Cat in Paris*. This event will be held on Thursday, January 16 from 2:55-4:05 p.m. at the Middle School. Students who need a ride home should plan to have their ride pick them up from the Circle Drive in front of the Middle School at 4:05 p.m.

## Vocal A Cappella Group

The Vocal A Cappella group performed their concert music and Christmas Carols at the Bellevue Senior Living Center on Thursday, Dec. 12. The residents were very appreciative of their singing and spreading cheer during the Holiday season.



## 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)

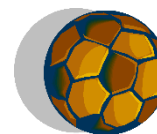
Boys & Girls Intramural Basketball & Wrestling (Winter)

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

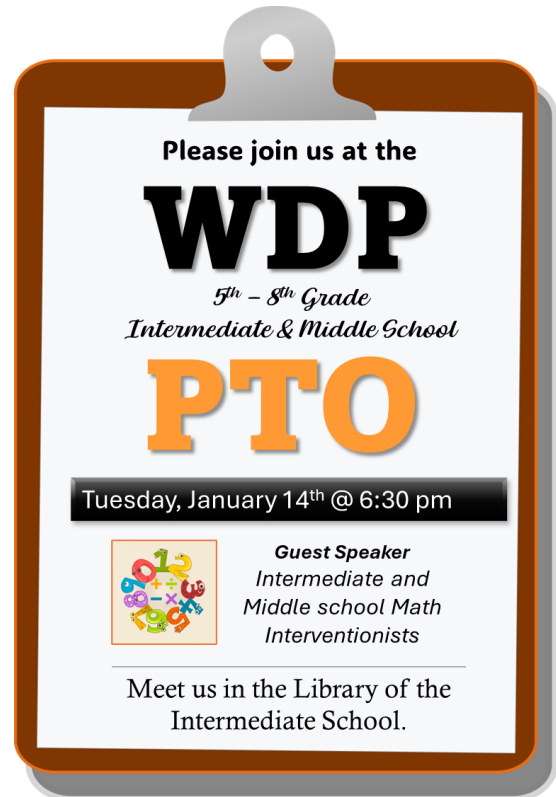
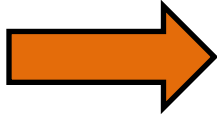
PLEASE GO TO [WWW.BAYCONFERENCE.ORG](http://WWW.BAYCONFERENCE.ORG) FOR PRACTICE/GAME SCHEDULES.  
SIGN UP ON “NOTIFY ME” TO RECEIVE ANY CHANGES MADE TO THE SCHEDULE

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!



## Art Corner

Art Contest Alert! Who is interested in designing the Middle School yearbook cover? We are looking for you to incorporate the Phantom Phundamental words, the Middle School logo, the school year all while using the theme "Neon" or "Neon Lights" on the cover. See Mrs. Schlatter for rules and paper. Colored yearbook designs are due to Mrs. Schlatter by Friday, January 17th. Good luck!

Student artwork from Quarter 2 will be displayed at Bellevue Senior Living on Wednesday, January 8th with a reception from 5:30-6:30pm. Please come out and enjoy your student's artwork and talk to the residents of the facility.

Youth Art Month is celebrated in March and to prepare for the celebration, art teachers are asked to submit 5 pieces of artwork from their school. These 5 students were chosen to have their artwork to be **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!

Art Club meets every Monday after school until 3:30pm. Upcoming dates are: January 6th and 13th (January 27th is cancelled). We are painting "Winter Scenes" for the school dance later this month. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Schlatter at [tschlatter@wdpsd.com](mailto:tschlatter@wdpsd.com).

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 while the Jazz Band plays music for our enjoyment. There will be face painting and cookies available for everyone with awards being handed out at 6:45pm. This event is free and for the entire family to enjoy! Mark your calendars and we will see you in March!

*"There are painters who transform the sun into a yellow spot, but there are others who, thanks to their art and intelligence, transform a yellow spot into the sun." –Pablo Picasso*