



Middle School Newsletter

March, 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 West De Pere Middle School Families,

Things to share during the month that celebrates St. Patrick's Day include:

Festive Fridays

As a way to recognize and reward good student behavior at school we occasionally do something called Festive Friday. On certain Fridays, we run a modified schedule in which all classes are shortened a couple minutes, adding to lunch and recess. As a result, students enjoy as much as 10 extra minutes during lunch and recess. Students can look forward to a couple Festive Fridays yet to come this spring!

No Phone Fridays

While we're on the topic of Fridays...banning cell phones in schools has been in the news lately. Schools that ban phones might be missing out on significant opportunities to teach kids about appropriate phone use. A big part of teaching kids about appropriate phone use is that they will survive without their phone for a while, when it's OK to use, and when it should be put away. With those teachable moments in mind, we are going to try a couple No Phone Fridays this spring. On a No Phone Friday, students will not be permitted to have/use their phone at any time other than lunch and recess. Students should keep their phones in their locker at all times except lunch and recess. Should a student be observed with their phone out or engaged with it, the phone may be taken and placed in the office for after-school pick-up. Should you have any questions or concerns about this please feel free to contact me.

Traffic Patterns

Please review the 5-8 campus map enclosed in the email that accompanies this newsletter. Please bring your attention to two specific areas:

- Middle School staff parking lot – for employee parking only. Student drop-off/pick-up before, during, and immediately after the school day is not permitted. However, parent or visitor traffic/parking is allowable for evening events.
- Middle School front drive – parent drop-off/pick-up of students should take place between the curb and white dashed line. Parking (diagonal spaces) for parents and visitors is marked and available any time before, during, or after the school day. Be aware the two speed bumps were installed last summer in an effort to maintain lower vehicle speeds.

Please share this information with siblings who drive, grandparents, or other individuals that might drop-off/pick-up your child. Please do not be offended if you are approached and asked to move your vehicle if it's located in one the no traffic/parking areas described above – areas that will have signage stating such installed this summer, making it enforceable by our resource officer. Thank you in advance for helping to keep our parking lots safe for kids and pedestrians.

WI Forward Exam

State-mandated testing for students will occur March 18-April 25, 2025. These tests are important measures of individual student achievement, district-level progress, and serve as the primary measure used to determine school report card scores. With any testing situation, the best preparation is often as simple as a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast. If you wish for your child to be excused from taking the test, you must communicate that in writing to me. A simple email will suffice. Parents seeking to know more about the Forward Exam can visit the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website (<http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/forward>). Additional questions about the Wisconsin Forward Exam can be directed to me or Joe Feldhausen, Teaching and Learning Coordinator, at 337-1393 extension 8035. Our testing schedule will be as follows:

Date	Grade Level	Test
March 18	7, 8	ELA
March 19	7, 8	ELA

Date	Grade Level	Test
April 2	8	Science
April 3	8	Social Studies
April 8	7, 8	Math
April 10	7, 8	Math

Sincerely,

James Finley, PhD

Phantom Phundamentals Update

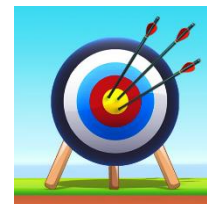
Students at West De Pere Middle School continue to impress the teachers and staff with their acts of character at school, in extra-curricular programs, and at home. Here are a few examples of the way that our students are demonstrating strong character.

Jaylee Cornelius, Grade 7 – Respect, Responsibility & Pride. Jaylee stopped during passing time to pick up trash that was on the floor after several students walked passed it and ignored it.

Dani Boye & Greta Wogsland, Grade 8 – Respect & Pride. Dani and Greta helped clean up a lunch mess that was not made by them.

Physical Education Class – Archery Unit

Starting on March 31st, we will be starting our archery unit. Archery is not only a physically engaging sport but also one that requires focus, discipline, and precision. It offers a unique opportunity for students to develop both their physical skills and mental concentration. During this three-week unit, all students will be required to participate in shooting steps, which are essential for understanding the fundamentals of archery.



To ensure the safety and proper understanding of the sport, we have implemented a few guidelines:

1. **Rules Quiz on Ed Puzzle:** Before students are allowed to shoot, they must complete a rules and safety quiz on Ed Puzzle and score 100%. This ensures that they have a comprehensive understanding of the safety protocols and rules associated with archery.
2. **Off-Task or Safety Concerns:** Any student found to be off-task or posing a safety concern during class will be excluded from participating in the archery unit for the entire three-week duration. This policy is in place to maintain a safe learning environment for all students and to emphasize the importance of following instructions and safety procedures. We take the safety and well-being of our students very seriously, and there will be no exceptions to this policy.

If your child has any specific concerns or questions regarding the archery unit, please do not hesitate to reach out to the WDPMS Physical Education Department. Additionally, if your child requires any special accommodations or considerations, please inform your child's teacher so that we can ensure their full participation and enjoyment of the unit. Personal bows that are currently used during the archery club will also be allowed in class with the same storage expectations.

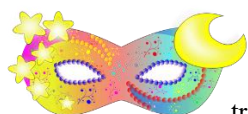
While we encourage all students to give it a try, we respect individual preferences and comfort levels. As a parent, it is your right to request that your student not take part in this unit. If you choose to opt your child out it will not affect their grade in the class. They will have a quiet resource study during that time. If you do **NOT** wish for your child to participate in the archery unit, please notify your child's teacher via email. If we do not hear from you we will assume your child has permission to participate in this unit.

Thank you for your support in helping us provide an experience of a lifelong physical activity for your child in Physical Education class. If you have any questions please feel free to contact your child's teacher via email.

Ms. Augustine - aaugustine@wdpsd.com

Mr. Skubal - zskubal@wdpsd.com

Mr. Williams - twilliams@wdpsd.com



French Club News

French Club students gathered together for an early Mardi Gras party on Thursday, February 13. (The actual date of Mardi Gras this year is March 4.) Students enjoyed eating traditional King's cake (*galette des rois*), in which a small baby figurine is baked in the cake, and the person who gets the piece of cake with the baby is crowned the king or queen of the party. Students received gold, purple, and green beads and decorated Mardi Gras masks!

The next French Club event will be held on Thursday, March 13 after school until 3:45 p.m. Students will enjoy Francophone Trivia! 7th and 8th grade students should meet after school in Monsieur Hanna's classroom. The group will then walk together to the Intermediate School for a combined 6th-8th grade event. Students should have a ride arranged to pick them up from the parking lot behind the Intermediate School at 3:45 p.m.

Important Middle School Dates

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 MS 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 6 th Gr. Track IS 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 th & 8 th Gr. Band
June 4	8th Gr. Promotion – 7 p.m.
June 6	Last Day of School/Early Release @ 11:10 a.m.

IS/MS Spring Track

Students in 6-8th grade who would like to participate in the IS/MS Spring Track & Field Season should sign up in PowerSchool under the forms tab. The season will begin on April 7th for 7th & 8th grades at the Middle School, and April 14th for 6th grade at the Intermediate School. The sixth graders will participate in their own meets, separate from the 7th and 8th grade track team.

The season meet schedule is available on the Bay Conference Calendar on the Middle School webpage, also find more info on our track webpage: <https://www.wdpsd.com/schools/middle/athletics/track.cfm>.

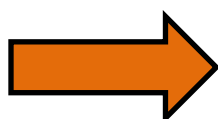
Middle School Choir News

The Vocal A Cappella group (Phantabile-pronounced "Fan-tah-bee-lay") performed the National Anthem at two sporting events recently. They sang on Thursday, Jan. 30 at a UWGB Women's Basketball Game at the Kress Center and Saturday, Feb. 8 for a Gambler's Hockey Game at the Resch Center. Congratulations Phantabile!



WDP 5-8 PTO

Please join us for our next meeting!



Please join us at the

WDP

5th – 8th Grade
Intermediate & Middle School

PTO

Tuesday, March 11th @ 6:30 pm

Guest Speaker - Dr. Lau - Superintendent

Jasper Lau, PhD

Superintendent
School District of West Okaloosa

Meet us in the Library of the
Intermediate School.

Art Corner

Three students were chosen to have their artwork on display at the State level. These students are: Caroline Bazile, Katlin Heneghan and Alex Vannieuwenhoven Their artwork will be on display in Madison at the East Towne Mall from March 1 - 28th, with an awards presentation held on March 28th from 12:00-1:00pm. Congratulations to these students and their amazing talent!

Mark your calendar for the Middle School Art Show which 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. Jazz Band performs and there will be face painting and cookies to enjoy. This event is free and for the entire family! Mark your calendars and we will see you on March 18th. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Schlatter at tschlatter@wdpsd.com

Helen Mears Art Contest: 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!

Congratulations to Melody Duvall and Norah Hopson whose yearbook cover submissions will be featured as the front and back cover on the yearbook this year! All submissions were fantastic and will be featured inside of the yearbook as well. Thank you to all who participated!

"An artist is not paid for his labor but for his vision." James McNeill Whistler

Golf Club

Are you interested in joining the Middle School Golf Club (6th-8th)? There will be a parent meeting held on **Tuesday, April 14th at 6:00pm in the Middle School Commons**. You will meet the coach, Kyle Venhuizen and the school 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. Mrs. Schlatter will start collecting registration forms on Wednesday, April 16th and end on Wednesday, April 23rd. Bring in your registration form and money to Mrs. Schlatter or turn them in at the main office (either Middle School or Intermediate). 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. A side note, they do practice in the rain, so make sure you have gear that you can wear in the rain!

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 with any questions.

Forensics

Our Forensics season is officially over! Students all earned Excellence ratings at the Level 1 competition at Bay View Middle School on February 3, and at the Level 2 meet on February 20 everyone also placed in the competition! We are very proud of these students for working throughout the season on improving their public speaking and performance skills. It's not easy getting up in front of people, and these students improved and excelled with their skills! Thanks for all the hard work!



Middle School Bellin Run Training

The Bellin Run Training program will be starting after Spring Break. The 7th and 8th graders at the Middle School will be training with the Intermediate School students. Ms. Pawlowski, along with Dr. Kohl at the IS, will be offering training runs or walks depending on how you would like to participate. We are planning to train on Mondays and Wednesdays starting in April. Students should listen for a Daily Bulletin announcement for a pre-training meeting for interested students in March. If you have any questions, please stop by Room 600 or email Ms. Pawlowski.

To participate in the Bellin Run through the Middle School, each runner will need to have the following forms completed and on file: a completed physical dated April 1, 2023 or later, a parent/student concussion agreement, and an emergency medical information form.

Forms can be picked up in the office or printed off from the middle school website at <https://www.wdpsd.com/schools/middle/athletics/forms.cfm>

NexTrex Recycling Challenge

The Student Council and National Junior Honor Society have teamed up to host a NexTrex Recycling Challenge! Help us collect household plastic bags and wraps, which will be recycled into Trex earth-friendly composite decking and railing. Our goal is to collect 1,000 pounds by January of 2026 to earn a Trex bench for our school and help the environment along the way. In the first few weeks of the collection, we recycled 40 pounds. Please help us reach our goal by sending in acceptable items to our drop off bins in school. See the acceptable items linked.



WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED?

- ✓ Bread bags
- ✓ Produce bags
- ✓ Newspaper sleeves
- ✓ Pallet wrap & stretch film
- ✓ Salt & Ice bags
- ✓ Grocery bags
- ✓ Cereal bags
- ✓ Case overwrap
- ✓ Bubble wrap
- ✓ Wood pellet bags
- ✓ Plastic shipping envelopes
- ✓ Dry cleaning bags
- ✓ Ziploc & other reclosable food storage bags