

# WEST DE PERE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025



## MR. MARSDEN'S MESSAGE

Mr. Scott Marsden, Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you and your family refreshed and rejuvenated after a wonderful holiday break. As we step into this new year, we are excited about the opportunities it brings for our 5th and 6th-grade students to grow, learn, and achieve their personal and academic goals.

January is a time of reflection and renewal. It offers us all a chance to set new goals and strive toward our aspirations. At West De Pere Intermediate School we believe in the importance of encouraging students to set goals, as these can directly correlate with their academic success. When students learn to plan, persevere, and take pride in achieving their objectives, they not only enhance their academic journey but also develop essential life skills.

Additionally, as we return to our routines, we'd like to remind you of a few upcoming events and important dates:

- **January 20:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School
- **January 21:** Start of 2nd Semester (French and Spanish Switches and Art and STEM Switches)
- **January 28:** 5th and 6th Grade Band Concerts at the Intermediate School.  
5th Grade at 6:00 and 6th at 7:30

We encourage you to stay involved and connected. Our partnership with you plays a vital role in your child's success. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Thank you for being an integral part of our school community. Here's to a fantastic year filled with growth, achievement, and joy for all our students!

Warm regards,  
Scott Marsden

## IMPORTANT DATES

**No School - Happy New Year!**

Jan. 1st

**WDP 5-8 PTO Meeting**

Jan. 14th, 6:30 PM @ IS Library

**No School**

Jan. 20th

**Band Concerts**

Jan. 28th

5th Grade, 6-7 PM

6th Grade, 7:30-8:30 PM

## REPORT CARDS FOR RELATED ARTS CLASSES

Our school operates on a trimester schedule, with report cards distributed three times a year. However, some related arts classes—Art, STEM, French, and Spanish—are structured differently. These classes run on semester schedules, and their grades are reported as follows:

- **First Semester Grades** (covering the first half of the year) will appear on the second-trimester report card.
- **Second Semester Grades** (covering the second half of the year) will appear on the third-trimester report card.

This allows us to provide a more comprehensive assessment of student learning and progress in these subjects.

## STEM CLASS CLUBS

First-semester STEM Class Clubs are wrapping up in 6th grade. Students chose a topic of their choice and created projects to present to their classmates. Topics included fundraisers for food banks and shelters, an animal supply drive, inventing new sports, 3-D printing, a GaGa Ball Club, a cooking club, and Native American dancing, among other ideas. Presentations will take place in January before students switch to art class.



## BAND CONCERTS

Mark your calendars for our upcoming band concerts on Tuesday, January 28th in the West De Pere Intermediate School Gym.

Here's the schedule:

### 5th Grade Concert

Start Time: 6:00 PM

Doors Open: 5:30 PM

Students Report to Band Room: 5:30 PM

### 6th Grade Concert

Start Time: 7:30 PM

Doors Open: 7:00 PM

Students Report to Band Room: 7:00 PM

**Dress Code:** Please dress nicely if possible!

Attendance is expected and required for all band students.

We look forward to seeing you there to support our talented musicians!



## PHANTOM PHUNDAMENTALS

### COMPASSION

Phantom Phundamentals are character traits we work to instill and celebrate in our Intermediate School students. Each month, we spend time focusing on a different Phundamental, with the hope of helping our students to develop and recognize that trait in both themselves and others.

Compassion was our Phantom Phundamental for the month of December. Compassion, as we discussed it, means showing kindness and consideration to others. Student Council held a pajama drive this past month and collected 91 pairs of pajamas to be donated. Furthermore, our Compliment Club was in full effect and spreading kindness at the Intermediate School.

Further, we discussed ways in which we can show compassion at home and school. At home we can do something considerate for another member of the family, like offering to do a chore, spending time reading books with a sibling, cleaning part of the house without being asked, and leaving kindness notes around the home for family members. At school we learned we can show compassion by focusing on and including others by inviting classmates to play a game at recess, asking someone new to eat lunch with us, holding the door for someone, and looking out for general opportunities to show kindness and help someone.

Our Phundamental for January will be COURAGE.

Go Phantoms!

– Mr. Chuck Brehm, Associate Principal



## CULTURAL DANCE PRESENTATIONS

Our students have been enjoying the various cultural dance presentations organized by our phy. ed. teachers. Some featured dances have included those from Indian, Hmong, and Native American traditions, helping students gain a deeper appreciation for the rich diversity in our world. It has truly been a wonderful celebration of culture, movement, and learning.



## LOVIN' THE SKIN I'M IN

**Lovin' the Skin I'm In** is a faith-based nonprofit organization that exists to empower and uplift Black & Brown girls in N.E. Wisconsin by providing access and exposure to opportunities that develop their talents, gifts, and leadership skills.

We offer...

- weekly to monthly groups
- culturally-specific games
- extracurricular activities
- discussions of topics that help build self-confidence

We are excited to announce that meetings will start on January 16th. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Oliver at [toliver@wdpsd.com](mailto:toliver@wdpsd.com) for permission slips.



## VISITOR AND VOLUNTEER INFO

### VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer support is appreciated and encouraged. School-wide opportunities are distributed through the office and classroom support is solicited through the individual teachers. For safety reasons, anyone requesting to volunteer within the school must complete a Background Check Application two weeks prior to the event and be approved prior to volunteering, unless previously approved. Requirements of volunteers vary based on the duties and interactions with students. [Click here](#) to visit the school website for more information about volunteering



### VISITORS

All visitors and volunteers are required to check in with the school office. Visitors will be asked to identify themselves and state the purpose of their visit before they will be permitted to enter the building. Upon entry, visitors must sign the visitor/volunteer book and receive an orange visitor badge to wear during their stay. If you come in during the day to drop off a project or a treat, we will be happy to have your child come to the office to pick it up. We keep disruptions to a minimum to ensure that students are able to focus on academic learning time.

## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Are you on Facebook? If so, be sure to follow the West De Pere Intermediate School account! Our video announcements are posted daily, so you'll always be kept up-to-date on school events and other important reminders. We also regularly post pictures and videos of the great things happening with our students and teachers. Our account profile is pictured to the right to help you find it. [Come connect with us today!](#)



**West De Pere Intermediate School**

5th and 6th Grade Intermediate School located in De Pere, WI.



## LIBRARY NEWS

### RELUCTANT READERS BOOK CLUB

The Reluctant Reader Book Club kicked off this month. Both our 5th and 6th grade clubs meet on Fridays during lunch. Members recognize that they struggle to feel excited about reading or have a hard time finding books they enjoy, so we work on addressing those barriers and building excitement for different books, genres, and authors. At the first meeting, students received gift bags with personalized book recommendations from the school library. We are so proud of these kids for being open to changing their opinions of reading! They've already shown a willingness to give some new books a try. The clubs will continue to meet throughout the rest of the second trimester.



### CHANGE OF ADDRESS/ PHONE NUMBER

Please make sure your address and telephone numbers are up to date in the school office. If your phone number or address has changed, please call the school office at (920) 425-1901 to update this information. If you are moving out of the West De Pere school district but wish to have your child remain at the Intermediate School for the school year, please call the office.

Please join us at the

# WDP

*5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Intermediate & Middle School*

# PTO

Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm



**Guest Speaker**  
*Intermediate and  
Middle school Math  
Interventionists*

Meet us in the Library of the  
Intermediate School.

The Intermediate School and Middle School have a combined PTO to support our schools. Meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. The location rotates between the IS and MS. All families are welcome to join!

### 2024-2025 MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

1/14 - 6:30, IS Library	4/8 - 6:30, MS Library
2/11 - 6:30, MS Library	5/13 - 6:30, IS Library
3/11 - 6:30, IS Library	

For more information or to suggest a topic for a future PTO meeting, email [wdp5.8pto@gmail.com](mailto:wdp5.8pto@gmail.com).

Visit the WDP 5-8 PTO page on the district website [HERE!](#)

### DAILY SCHEDULE

7:20 AM - Breakfast & morning supervision begins  
7:40 AM - First bell rings and students enter the building  
7:45 AM - Instruction begins  
2:50 PM - Final dismissal bell rings

*\*On early dismissal days, the bell rings at 11:10 AM.*



## SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

### FRENCH CLUB

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 holiday 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. Students will meet in the Intermediate School French classroom and will then walk together to the Middle School for the movie. 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.



### SPELLING BEE

On Friday, December 13th, our school hosted exciting grade-level spelling bees for 5th and 6th graders. Representatives from each homeroom took the stage to showcase their spelling skills and compete for the top spot. The event highlighted not only the students' impressive vocabulary but also their hard work and determination.

The winners of these grade-level bees will proudly represent our school at the District Spelling Bee in January. We wish them the best of luck as they prepare for the next round of competition! Thank you to everyone who participated, cheered on the contestants, and helped make this event a success.

Students moving on to the district level include Ezra H., Aubrey L., Jaxon R., and Ian W. from 5th grade and Frankie K., Henley K., Nessa M., and Ryan R. from 6th grade.



### THE GRUNCH MUSICAL

Our school musical, *The Grunch*, wrapped up with incredible public performances that wowed audiences. The students' hard work and talent truly shone on stage, and the special guest appearances by our principals, Mr. Marsden & Mr. Brehm, and the district superintendent, Dr. Lau, made the show even more memorable!

To celebrate their success, the cast enjoyed a well-deserved pizza party and a special screening of the performance. Congratulations to everyone involved in making *The Grunch* an unforgettable experience!



### BOARD GAME CLUB

Come join the Board Game Club! Our first meeting will be 1/7 at the learning stairs balcony. The club will meet every Tuesday from 2:50- 3:30pm until May. Students will need to be picked up at 3:30pm in the front of the building. Hope to see you there.

