

WEST DE PERE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024



MR. MARSDEN'S MESSAGE

Mr. Scott Marsden, Principal

One of the fun things we do on announcements each week is to share some useless information on Tuesday mornings. We call it, Totally Useless Trivia Tuesday. Students may learn about clouds, birds, trees, or even the snowiest winter in Wisconsin. Whatever it is, it is something not really useful for everyday life but is usually pretty interesting.

Well, I'd like to give you some information that is far from useless. Did you know that the state of Wisconsin has a poverty rate of 11.3%, Brown County has a poverty rate of 9.77%, and De Pere has a poverty rate of 6.6%? If you look just at our school district, 23.35% of our students come from economically disadvantaged homes. So what can we do to help our families in need this time of year? Here is one way our school has helped out.

Our student council runs a Pajama Drive to donate new pajamas for kids in need. We collected during the last couple of weeks of November and will continue for a portion of December. Our goal is to bring in at least 100 pairs of new pajamas.

Another thing happening this month is our 5th and 6th-grade choir concerts. The choir will be performing on December 12th at 6:00 for 5th grade and 7:30 for 6th grade. This concert will be held in the auditorium at the high school. We hope to see you there!

One last thing to mention is the Intermediate School Musical. This year we are performing The Grunch. We will have three performances on December 5th, 6th, and 7th. The 5th and 6th will be at 6:30 and the 7th will be at 1:30. These performances will be held at the high school auditorium as well. Tickets are on sale now, so get them while they're still available. Here is the link to order if you are interested: <https://west-de-pere-intermediate-school.ticketleap.com/the-grunch/>

I hope you all find some time to relax and enjoy this holiday season with family and friends!

IMPORTANT DATES

Trimester 2 Begins

Dec. 2nd

Pajama Drive Donations Due

Dec. 3rd

IS Students to Musical/ Musical Dress Rehearsals

Dec. 4th

Musical Public Performances

Dec. 5th-7th

PTO Meeting

Dec. 10th, 6:00 PM, Margarita's

Winter Choir Concerts

5th Gr. - Dec. 12th, 6:00 PM

6th Gr. - Dec. 12th, 7:00 PM

Winter Break - NO SCHOOL

Dec. 23rd through Jan. 1st

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

If your child will be staying home ill, needs to leave school early, or will be arriving late due to an appointment, please call the attendance line at (920) 425-1901 (selection 2). You can also email Sara Meulemans at smeulemans@wdpsd.com to notify the school of any absences.

If we do not hear from you about your student's absence, the office will send an email. A follow-up phone call will also be made if we do not hear back after the email. Absences are marked as "unexcused" without any notification.

If you are planning a vacation and your student will be absent for 2 or more days, please let the office and your child's teacher know via email.

Students arriving after 8:00 AM or leaving before 2:35 PM will incur a half-day absence on their attendance record.

Early release days are considered a full day for attendance. If your child is absent on an early release day, they will incur a full day absence on their attendance record.

When medical notes are provided, the absence will not count towards student truancy.

PHANTOM PHUNDAMENTALS

PRIDE

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.

In the month of November, we discussed the Phantom Phundamental of PRIDE. We discussed having pride in ourselves, our classes, our school, and our community. When we all work together and cheer each other on, it creates a positive and inspiring environment for everyone.

Here are a few ways we discussed showing school spirit and Phantom Pride this month:

- Wearing our school colors and Phantom apparel
- Attending school activities like sporting events, school musicals, and concerts
- Joining a club or team and participating in co-curricular activities
- Being a positive role model and encouraging your classmates to do their best
- Volunteering our time to help out at school events, fundraisers, or community service projects.

Our Phundamental for December will be COMPASSION.

Go Phantoms!

– Mr. Chuck Brehm, Associate Principal



CITY OF DE PERE NO IDLING CLEAN AIR INITIATIVE

The No Idling Clean Air Initiative was implemented in 2023 with the support of the Unified School District of De Pere and the West De Pere School District to lower harmful gas emissions and protect the lungs of our children. This year, we are again asking drivers to turn off their engines when waiting more than 10 seconds (weather permitting) while picking up children.

We would love you to commit to No Idling; the positive effects are great for our schools, students, community, and environment! Not idling is a great way to make sure the air in your children's classroom is clean and it helps the schools out, too! Not idling means that children with asthma and allergies will not get sick because fumes from idling affect their health. 1 in 13 school-age children have asthma. Not idling means that greenhouse gas emissions will be lower and that is good for the challenges of climate change. We ask for your support; it is an easy way to provide clean air for everyone! To further promote this initiative, Idle Citizens can pick up Clean Air Initiative bumper stickers at the De Pere Municipal Service Center at 925 S. Sixth Street to help spread the word.



Reducing Asthma Risk

Air toxins are pollutants known to cause serious health problems such as asthma. Vehicle exhaust is a major source of air pollution. By reducing car idling, the potential of lung irritation and inflammation can be reduced, therefore potentially reducing the risk of developing asthma and other exhaust-related health problems.

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

STUDENT LIBRARY ASSISTANTS

Our Student Library Assistant Program will be kicking off in the second trimester. We truly enjoy having students help in the library with shelving books, organizing games and activities, and helping the space look clean and inviting for all of our school community members. We will be utilizing 6th grade helpers for Trimester 2. We have 22 helpers, all who seem eager to keep our library running smoothly. They had to fill out an application answering questions about the skills they possess that will make them good helpers and what they love most about the library. They even had to list a teacher who could serve as a reference for them! These assistants will come one day each week during their recess to help out. 5th graders will have the opportunity to serve as Student Library Assistants during the third 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 for the
5th - 8th Grade

PTO

Holiday gathering on Tuesday,
December 10th @ 6:00 pm



1241 Lombardi Access Rd.
Attendees are responsible for their own expenses.

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

12/10 - 6:00, Margarita's	3/11 - 6:30, IS Library
1/14 - 6:30, IS Library	4/8 - 6:30, MS Library
2/11 - 6:30, MS Library	5/13 - 6:30, IS Library

For more information or to suggest a topic for a future PTO meeting, email 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

MUSICAL

Musical month is finally here! Public performances of *The Grunch* will be held on December 5th and 6th at 6:30 PM and December 7th at 1:30 PM. All Intermediate School students will be attending a dress rehearsal performance during the school day on December 4th. Cast members and families should continue to watch Google Classroom and the Band app for important information regarding our final rehearsals and performances.



[CLICK HERE](#) to purchase your tickets!

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

Students in Battle of the Books have been busy over the last few weeks reading the books on this year's list. 5th-grade battles will begin the week before Christmas and will run through January. 6th-grade battles will be held in January. Participants in both grades should keep an eye on their Battle of the Books Google Classrooms for their battle schedules!

FRENCH CLUB

West De Pere Intermediate 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)!



STUDENT COUNCIL



Our 2024-2025 Student Council has been chosen! We are confident this group of students will do wonderful things for our school community. One of their first activities is hosting a pajama drive. The Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive will run through December 3rd. Student Council is collecting new pajamas in all sizes from newborn to adult. Pajamas must be donated as a complete set (top & bottom, nightgown, or onesie.) Donations can be turned into the school library. For each pair of pajamas collected, Scholastic will donate a brand new book to a child in need!



DE PERE HOLLY DAY

Sat, Dec 7 | 12 - 4 pm

The streets and businesses of downtown will be filled with holiday spirit at De Pere Holly Day.

Special Events

Story time with Santa
Letters to Santa and North Pole mailbox
Photos with Santa Claus
Find Frosty scavenger hunt
Bonfire and s'mores
Horse and carriage ride

Open House Activities

Warm drinks and holiday treats
Holiday window displays
Special offers and in-store discounts
Enter to win gift baskets
And more, at over 15 shops

Holly Day Station

Pick up an event brochure and scavenger hunt form
Listen to holiday tunes
Warm up with a bonfire and s'mores
Located behind the Definitely De Pere office, 117 N Wisconsin St.

www.definitelydepere.org

