

March  
2020

# WORTHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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### WMS News

Hello WMS Families and Friends, Did you know that March is National Middle Level Education Month? We like to call it Middle School Month and it is a time to remind us how important it is to provide our middle school students with the support they need to succeed both academically and socially.

Middle school is the time when friends and activities begin to dominate your child's schedule, so finding the time to discuss their current work at school, and their plans for the future can be challenging. That conversation might have to take place as you drive them from one event to the next, so make them put away their phone, or their iPad, for those few quick minutes. Also, be sure to take full advantage of dinnertime if you are able to eat together. Parents need to put their phones away too and pay attention to those conversations. Sometimes all you need to do to show your support is be there.

So go to their concerts and games, even if it is inconvenient. It may seem that they want their parents and siblings to just disappear, and sometimes it's best if we do...temporarily. However, they really do need family to be supportive and attending school functions, even if they do not always act like it. Whatever you do, make sure you celebrate their efforts.

There are a number of opportunities for you to celebrate your child this month:

March 6-Area Student Art Show opening at the Public Library (stays up all month)

March 9-Track, Softball, Baseball- first day of practice— weather permitting

March 16-Golf- first day of practice

### March 20-Early Out, dismissal at 11:55

March 23-Boys Tennis- first day of practice  
March 27-WMS/WHS Jazz Night at WMS

Don't forget to check out the **Middle Years** newsletter, there are some great, short, articles. You can find it on our website, [www.isd518.net/schools/wms/](http://www.isd518.net/schools/wms/) Mr. Luke

### Spelling Bee

Three talented WMS spellers competed in the SW/WC Spelling Bee in Redwood Falls on February 4. **Isaac Kinser** and **Alex Reum**, both seventh graders, and **Ayana Leovan**, a sixth grader, competed against 29 other spellers from our region. After a written round and the first oral round, 16 students remained in the competition. Isaac went on to compete in the final spell down and he tied for 8<sup>th</sup> place. Congratulations to all three of our WMS spellers for qualifying to participate in this prestigious spelling bee.

### Bus Company

Please direct any questions you may have to Bud's Bus Service. You may contact them at 507-372-5552.



Check out the  
ISD 518 website:  
[www.isd518.net](http://www.isd518.net),  
Worthington Public  
Schools on Facebook,  
and Follow us on In-  
stagram & Twitter  
Worthington ISD518



### **Counselors Corner**

Students are preparing to take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA). These assessments measure students performance in reading, math and science. Students are required to take these assessments every year. Below are the dates and times of the tests for the middle school students.

Reading MCA - April 14 & 15

Math MCA - April 21 & 22

Science MCA - April 28 & 29 (only 5th and 8th grade students take this assessment)

As parents there are things you can do to help make sure your child receives the best score possible on these tests:

1. Ensure your child is completing homework daily throughout the school year.
2. Make sure your child goes to be early and is well rested on testing days.
3. Provide a healthy breakfast before they leave for school.
4. Avoid scheduling vacations and appointments on testing days.

More information on how parents can help prepare their children can be found at <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/tests/>

### **6th Grade News**

Dear 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Families,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Parent-Teacher Conferences in February. Although the sun is shining more frequently, it is important to remember that students need to come to school with appropriate winter gear. With the increased sunlight, the temptation for students to stay up later is an ever-present one. Developmentally, middle-grade students need at least 10 hours of sleep each night with a complete disconnect from electronic devices at least one-hour before bedtime. As we go into testing season with the EL ACCESS Tests, followed in the coming weeks by MCA testing, getting the proper amount of rest can not only prepare students mentally for being successful, but proper rest is paramount to staying healthy.

The third quarter of the 2019-2020 school year will end with a half-day on March 20<sup>th</sup>. All students will need to be at 100% of their Accelerated Reader and have all missing work turned in by that date. In addition to winter gear and sleep, setting students up for success includes having a pencil and other materials each day.

Thank you for being important partners in your students' learning!

Warmly,



### Music Corner for March 2020:

#### Greetings from the WMS music staff:

Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Andersen, Ms. Rukstales, Mrs. Jenson, and Mr. Paulsen~ Thank you for sharing your students with us. We love watching and nurturing student creativity! Thank you parents and administration for your support of music in our schools!

**Please mark your calendar with future MUSICAL EVENTS:**

**Wednesday, March 4-** Brandon Choir and Band Festival, Free, Public concert at 2 PM.

**Choir students attending:** Bethzabeth Pina, Kaitlyn Bartels, Malida Zayvixiene, Abigail Meester, Poe Poe, Quinn Benz, Ben Schreiber, Caden Van Briesen and Tu Say Moo

**Band students attending:** Mery Ramos, Soe Nay Htoo, Eh Day Htoo

**Tuesday March 24-** Fifth grade Band and Orchestra Solo/Ensemble Festival at WMS 2PM-6:30PM

**Friday, March 27-** WHS and WMS Jazz Night at WMS- 6:30 PM

**Monday, April 20-** 5-8 grade Band Concert at Memorial Auditorium-7pm

**Thursday, Friday-May 7 & 8-** WMS Choirs at Memorial Auditorium-7pm

**Monday, May 12-** 4 & 5 Orchestra @ WMS Gym- 7 PM

**Friday, May 15-** 6, 7, 8 Orchestras @ Memorial Auditorium-7PM

Thank you, parents and administration, for your support of music in our schools!

**BECOME A MEMBER OF WAMBO: Worthington Area Music Booster Association.**

This organization's board wants everyone to know this is just not for high school parents but open to ANY and ALL parents/grandparents. WAMBO strives to support music at all levels of the district.

New color guard uniforms.

Week long residency with MN Sinfonia from Minneapolis, MN. The MN Sinfonia, under the direction of Jay Fishman worked with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Chamber Orchestra and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade singers. They presented a free concert to the public.

String bass for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra.

New sousaphone for marching and practice.

We are always actively seeking new membership. Presently the yearly membership dues are \$20, which is similar to the athletic booster's organization. Monthly meetings are generally the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. We are also looking for members to serve in various board positions or to volunteer a few hours at musical events. For more information on how to become a member of WAMBO, see the facebook page or speak with a music teacher.

*Student handbook is located on school website and also on your student's iPad! Please take a moment to read.*

### **5th Grade News**

The end of the quarter is quickly approaching. Third quarter ends March 20. This is also the date the students need to be at their Accelerated Reading goal. Keep encouraging your child to read at home to reach their individual goal. Fifth graders are working hard to prepare for MCA testing this spring. They will be tested in reading, math, and science this year. All three subject areas will be tested in April. Look for more information to follow closer to testing dates.

