

Worthington Middle School

January 2023

FROM MS. BAARTMAN & MR. HERTZ

Happy Holidays!

We hope this letter finds you safe, warm, and healthy! Recently, we had a parent meeting regarding vaping and THC vaping. You will see links to the meetings below and ask that if you have any questions, you reach out to us. We feel this is really important information to share with our community and families. We have the edited versions of the Parent Meetings for Vaping in both English and Spanish. We will not be posting these on social media, but will be on the school webpage and WGTN-TV3 Website.

The Karen parent meeting didn't happen because of the weather.. We are waiting for the translation of the English meeting that will have the Karen translations added. As soon as they are ready we will put them in the next newsletter.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bbV8nPISEi8JDPQv_q9pj2sW15BhmO1E/view?usp=share_link Vaping Parent Meeting – English

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DnWRjKKeG6mNoDMAog79guM1h4w2W9_L/view?usp=share_link Vaping Parent Meeting – Spanish

<http://wgtntv3.isd518.net/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=1> WGTN-TV3 (Studio 3) Webpage

There will be more Vape Educate coming your way as the year progresses. We will also have a week dedicated to vape education in the spring with our students. More information will be coming.

Thank you for all you do in supporting our Middle School Students! It takes a village to raise a child!

Sincerely,

Ms. Toni Baartman, MS Principal

Mr. Casey Herts, MS Assistant Principal



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JANUARY



Middle School EL Department

Did you know that our middle school has many students that can speak more than one language? Because of this, our students' brains are wired to help them understand one language and translate it into another to help them comprehend what they are reading or listening to. This makes them amazing learners!

There are many benefits to learning another language. These include increased cognitive functions and enhanced multitasking capabilities. Speaking another language also helps you better understand your first language, and can set you up for a successful career in our increasingly connected world.

If you only know one language, there are many programs out there to help you learn another language. One program we like to use is Duolingo. Many students in our building are using it to learn a new language for fun. We also have a diverse group of multilingual learners who are using it to better understand English as part of their English Language class.

The English Language team is working hard this year to help students not only learn English, but be successful in other academic areas. We want to encourage parents/guardians to reach out to us whenever you have any questions this school year. We want to help students succeed in Middle School and build them up to being lifelong learners.

Here are a few tips for helping students at home:

Check Campus with your students. If they have any missing work, it will show up there and you can ask about it with them. You can encourage them to ask questions to their teachers about missing assignments. You can also get a parent account for Campus by using one of these links:

<https://www.isd518.net/parents-students/portal-application-english/>

<https://www.isd518.net/parents-students/parent-portal-application-spanish/>

Encourage your students to read books in English at home. If you speak another language at home, have your student tell you about what they are reading in your native language. This helps them practice English with their reading and practice skills in the native language by retelling. The middle school also uses AR points with reading as a grade. Reading at home and going over what they read will help the students when they take a test on a book.

Testing season is coming up at the middle school! The first big standardized test of the year is the ACCESS test. This test is for students who are English Learners and it assesses their English abilities in listening, reading, writing, and speaking. The test is given in four parts, so it isn't all crammed into one day. The purpose of this test is to determine the language ability of each student. Students with high scores show that they have enough skills in English to be successful without an EL class or any EL support. Students with scores that fall below the cutoff will still need an EL class or support with English in other classes. We want all students to try their best on this test so we can best support them at school. Testing reminders will be sent to students and families before the test. The night before a test, please make sure your student gets a good night's sleep and have them charge their iPad.

Check out the
ISD 518 website:

www.isd518.net, Worthington
Public Schools on Facebook, and
Follow us on Instagram & Twitter
Worthington ISD518



Earlier this school year, students in EL classes had the opportunity to build some background knowledge and apply things they were learning about reptiles by having a presentation from the Zoo Man. Many of the students were reading about reptiles in class or will read about them during the year, so this was a great opportunity for the students to build background knowledge. The Zoo Man brought in a turtle, a tortoise, a few snakes, and a bird. They students were all able to see the animals up close. A few students and teachers were even brave enough to get a snake draped over their shoulders!



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



Middle School Art



By Miguel Rivas



By Joachim Christobal