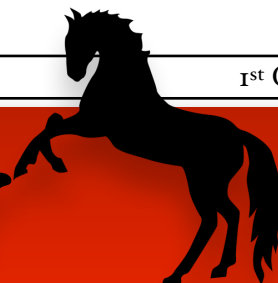


SMS Newsletter



School Contacts

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Jocelynn Medenwaldt, Counselor

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Middle School Office:

Nicole (AM): 258.4790

Dani (PM): 258.4790

Tammy: 258:4730

Absentee Line: 323.1029

School Hours

8:25am to 3:15pm

Due to safety concerns and lack of supervision, students should not be on campus before 8:00am or after school - unless they are participating in a school-related function.

Calendar of Events

Seattle Trip Meeting Nov.13 5:30pm
8th Grade Parents

Family Night Out Nov 14, 5pm

Fall Conferences

Tuesday, Nov. 26, 8am-6pm

Wednesday, Nov. 27, 8am-12pm

Thanksgiving Break Nov. 28-29

7th WSU Medical Visit Dec 17th

Winter Break Dec. 23-Jan 3

No School- MLKJ Jan. 20

End of 1st Semester Jan. 22

This first quarter has been filled with many excellent teaching and learning experiences. Our students are doing a fantastic job with their class projects, had a near-perfect fall sports season, and experienced many enriching opportunities. A few highlights include the 6th-grader excitement to be in middle school and to select elective classes. Another was the seventh-grader's participation in a hands-on medical career day hosted by WSU on our campus. An eighth-grader highlight has been their continual demonstration of academic and athletic leadership. I am so pleased to have the opportunity to work with a great student body.

This school year, the middle school staff is focusing on providing customized instruction that will help every child demonstrate growth in their learning. The team has been exceptionally excited to see positive growth data over the last several years as we have implemented the Summit Learning platform. This year, our goal is to continue with positive growth and couple it with higher academic achievement. That may sound confusing. The website Edweek.org defines achievement as a measure that evaluates how well students performed against a standard(others). "In contrast, progress is measured by how much 'growth' students make over time, typically from one year to the next."

To help achieve greater growth and achievement, the middle school is focusing on the following three items:

- ✦ Daily school-wide reading for 20 minutes.
- ✦ Focused interventions for reading and math.
- ✦ Weekly 1-on-1 Mentor conversations.

I appreciate the wonderful opportunity to work with your child(ren) and encourage you to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mr. Joachim


Mr. Joachim, Principal



Chromebook's For Home Use

As part of Mary Walker School District's commitment to 21st Century Learning, a Chromebook laptop has been issued to your student for their use at school. We are very excited to be able to make these powerful tools available to our students.

Like textbooks, team uniforms and other school property issued to your student, there is a responsibility to take appropriate care of these valuable resources. The Chromebook is no different, but it does represent an increased cost to the district and liability to students and parents. The district provides Chromebook Insurance as a way for families to reduce the financial risk if a Chromebook is accidentally damaged, lost, stolen, or vandalized.

Students who desire to check out a Chromebook for home use must first have a Chromebook Insurance Form submitted to the main office. You can access the form at: www.tinyurl.com/mwsdchromebookinsurance 

Going Hog Wild For 4-H

By: Kaylynn L.

Most teens our age spend their summers on their phones, binge-watching Netflix, or lost in video games. There is a group of fun, energetic kids who spent their summer enjoying farm life. Spending your summer feeding, training, and raising your show animal is a lot of work, but it can pay off as well.

The best thing about 4-H to me is being with friends as we work towards individual and group accomplishments. Whether you show an animal to sell at the 4H Fat Stock Sale or just show your favorite pet, 4-H will always be more than ribbons and money. The memories you gain are worth far more.

Have you ever swung danced late at night to a Dj playing loud music? Ate a pound of curly fries with your friends, or laughed so hard over the stupidest things?

In 4-H you are more than just kids showing livestock. You are a family. A family that gets up at 5 am to feed hogs, a family that spends their summer decorating and building their farm decorations. A family that plans camps and spends every evening talking about life.

4-H has a famous saying, "make the best better." Everyone has the best in them, and they just need to find something that will make them better. Better in life, better as a person and better to themselves. 4H makes us all better. 🐾



Peer group working on a Power Focus.

Power Focus Areas

By: Kevin M.

Some of the kids taking power focus areas don't take any notes, and they are just testing their luck by guessing rather than showing their knowledge. A power focus area is a ten question quiz that covers specific topics in each core class. To pass a power focus assessment, a student must score an 8 out of 10 on the test. Our teachers are encouraging us to review the vocabulary, take notes on all the provided resources, and be ready to take the assessment. Mr. Joachim has challenged us to study well and only take the assessment once to pass.

Why do the kids try to do nothing but just pass the focus areas by guessing? One student said they "are just trying to get done with the year and trying to get some free time." This really doesn't work.

Some kids have taken tests 3, 5, or many more times...one hallway legend is that a student once took an assessment 63 times! Mr. Joachim called that a hyperbole. A student who has adequately studied the resources should only need to take the assessment once. Some kids still take them more times, so the school has established a rule where students can get peer help studying for the second attempt and teacher assistance on the third attempt. I encourage everyone to earn a Flash Reward bypassing your next power focus area on the first attempt.

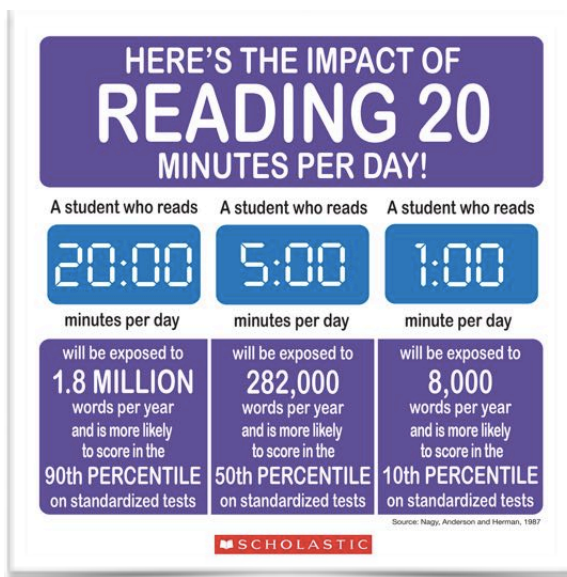
Three of the best strategies for passing assessments is for students to help other kids to take notes, read ALL the resources, and ask teachers if they need help. Additionally, kids that are ahead and got high scores on their tests are Power Focus Peer Mentors for the kids that need help. Kids that need help should not be afraid of asking other students or teachers for help.

Finally, it is essential to remember that a power focus is just worth 20% of the total grade. Projects are worth 80% of one's grade. So, be sure to complete all your checkpoints for each project and submit your project on time! 🐾

Dressing for cold weather.

As the temperature starts to drop, please be sure to send your student to school with a warm jacket. Students will have outside recess in the morning, before school, and at lunch.


Students will have inside recess when the temperature is below 20 degrees or if it is raining. 🐾



History Report w/ *Ms. Edwards*


6th grade has spent the first quarter learning what science is and is not, and understanding how to cite proper science sources. The emphasis has been on the scientific method, and how to use that method. Our first project was the mystery box which taught observation and how to reach a scientific conclusion. The second project is seed science, where students are conducting experiments on seeds. They are working on understanding independent variables and dependent variables.

First quarter was spent on their ecosystem project. The 7th grade learned what makes up an ecosystem and then they built ecosystem models out of plastic bottles and jars. Now we put them in the sun and see if we can stink up the middle school hallway. Stinky science is good science.

The 8th grade started out with some historical scientist, and searching out interesting science investigations. The 8th grade summit curriculum integrates engineering problem solving techniques. We just finished up a project on genetics and human genetic engineering. The rate of genetic discoveries in the science world is astounding and will effect us all. 

Math Report w/ *Mrs. Moss*

It has been a busy fall in the math classroom! Students in the sixth grade have been learning about area, surface area and volume. This is a continuation of work they did in the fifth grade. We are just beginning a new unit working with ratios which are closely related to their previous work with equivalent fractions and is the foundation of the work with proportional relationships that is a major part of the work of seventh grade. Seventh grade students have been working on scale factors, looking at many different examples of where we use scales, including maps and blueprints. This is the foundation of the dilation work the eighth grade is currently embarking on. The seventh grade are moving into their unit introducing proportional relationships.


Eighth grade students have been busy working on geometry concepts. We finished our first unit on rigid transformations, which create congruent shapes. This concept is used in creating patterns in building and decorating just as a small example. We are now moving into dilations which create similar shapes that are a different size. In math classes the emphasis is on building understanding that is the foundation of future work. If students are struggling with a concept they can go back and revisit it at a later date when they may have a better understanding. Assessments can always be redone when they have worked and solidified their knowledge. 



English Report w/ *Ms. Smith*

6th Grade English: The focus for sixth grade English has been to read the book Holes. After reading students would write a short summary, find a quote in the book that they connected with or make predictions. Two key terms the students worked on were theme and plot (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution).

7th Grade English: Seventh grade started the school year with reviewing argumentative writing. The essential question for this paper was “Are video games helpful or harmful to kids?” We read an article both for and against the topic. Students chose a side and wrote a five paragraph paper which included quotes supporting their claim and a counter argument. We are now reading through a number of short stories in a book called Flying Lessons and Other Stories.


8th Grade English: The eighth grade class began the year listening to a podcast called Serial. Students were supposed to determine if the main character was innocent or guilty depending on the evidence that was presented during the podcast. They then wrote an argumentative paper about their choice and supported it with examples to prove their side. Currently we are reading, writing and responding to a variety of poems. 

Science Report w/ *Mr. Boyel*

The 8th grade has already completed its first project in US History: “Declaring Independence.” They learned about the many different reasons why countries, including the United States, would declare independence. This was a research project that students were able to either “stay home” and look into the original 13 colonies, or dig deeper into other countries, such as France, Haiti, or Mexico.

The 7th Grade has also completed their first project: “The Silk Road and Globalization.” They took what they had learned last year about the Silk Road and tied it into globalization or trade on a larger scale. For example, students were able to see how cotton harvested in Mississippi goes all around the world in order to make the shirts that we are wearing.

In the 6th grade we are wrapping up “History Without Writing.” Students have made posters and slide shows to go along with their oral presentation that they did, or are presenting in front of the class. This project has been valuable for them “digging” into different types of artifacts that tell us about the past, as-well-as defeating some of their fears of presenting in front of peers.

The classes are off to a great start and I know that they will keep up the good work. 

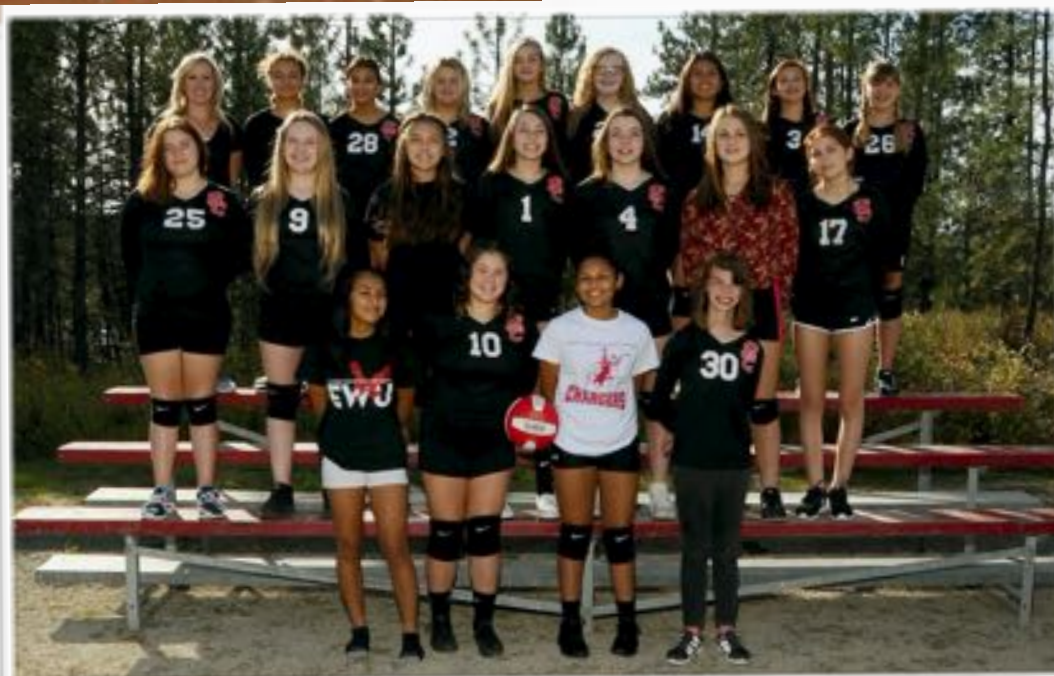


MS Football by: Ellijah S.

This season we went 6-0, we did really great. Our best game was against Republic, where we beat them 36-0 at our home field. I feel like our team accomplished a lot this season, and I hope that we will go undefeated next season too. However, in our second game, Rayden got a neck injury and a concussion and had to go to the hospital. Unfortunately, this ended his season. Thankfully no one else got hurt the rest of the season. Great job to all the Springdale Colts football players! 🍌

MS Volleyball by: Isabel L.

This volleyball season, the girls went undefeated both JV and Varsity. We made many great memories together, no matter what we were doing. It didn't matter whether we were riding the bus, practicing, or playing in the games. This year the girls got to welcome a new coach Chelsea Shelton. They also got to welcome many new faces as new kids joined the team or just students who wanted to be apart of the group. The girls played terrifically and were sad to see the season come to an end. 🍌



MS Cross-Country by: Teko C.

The season went well for the middle school Cross Country team(Tomeko, Thayne, Sydney, Kevin, and Trystan). We had a total of 8 meets. Each of which had a 1.5-mile course for the middle school students to run. For the championship race, the runners placed 7th(Tomeko), 15th(Thayne), 21st(Trystan), and 36th(Sydney). The middle schoolers practiced with the high school team. The older athletes really pushed the middle school runners to do the best in every practice and meet. 🍌