

## **Walnut Creek Learning Community,**

We had another great week at Walnut Creek Middle School!

Our testing season has officially begun! Our 8th graders completed the PSAT on Tuesday, and MSTEP testing will begin next week on Tuesday, April 22nd. I know that this is a stressful time for students as they are working through multiple assessments. At Creek, we try to reinforce that our students are much more than a test score from a single day. The most important thing to us at Creek is that our students put forth their best effort. Please help to share a similar message at home - we are not looking for perfection - we are not defined by a test score - we are focused on supporting the complete development of our students - and they should not feel overwhelmed or overly stressed by the state testing that we are currently working through.

**Thank you for your continued support! Go Hawks!**

### **NEW INFO In this week's edition:**

- **Week Ahead Event Schedule**
- **Student Council Rock, Paper, Scissor Contest**
- **Equestrian Team Fundraiser**

### **Week Ahead Event Schedule - NEW INFO**

- **Wednesday, April 23rd:**
  - **Track Meet Vs. Banks @ Walled Lake Western HS - 4 PM**

### **Student Council Sponsored Rock, Paper, Scissors Contest - NEW INFO**

Student Council will be holding a Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament on Wednesday, April 23 in the cafeteria, during all lunches. The cost to play will be \$1, and re-entry to the tournament will also be offered for \$1 per additional game. All proceeds from the tournament will go to the Michigan Humane Society and the winner of each grade level will receive a \$15 DoorDash Gift Card!

### **Equestrian Team Fundraiser - NEW INFO**

The Middle School Equestrian team will host a fundraiser on Saturday, May 3rd from 1 - 3 PM at Hoffman Farm. Please see that attached flyer for more detailed information.

### **PTSA Staff Appreciation Information - Previously Communicated**

Staff Appreciation Week is almost here!

Our amazing staff members show up every day with big hearts and endless dedication to support our students - especially during these middle school years, which we all know come with their own set of challenges!

To show just how much we appreciate all they do, the PTSA is planning a special week (May 5<sup>th</sup> – May 9<sup>th</sup>) full of treats and surprises. But we can't do it without your help!

We're looking for volunteers to:

- Donate items
- Donate time
- Or simply donate funds - we'll take care of the rest!

Every little bit helps make this week truly special for our staff so we appreciate any contribution you can make!

Please click the SignUpGenius link below to find a slot that works for you or donate funds by clicking or scanning the QR code on the attached flyer.

Thank you for helping us celebrate the wonderful team that helps shape our students each and every day!

[Click Here to Help!](#)

### **Spring Standardized Testing Schedule - ~~Previously Communicated~~**

As Spring arrives, it brings with it the state mandated standardized testing season. Below is our spring testing schedule

#### **April 15th - PSAT 8**

On April 15th, 6th and 7th grade students will not attend school in the morning. 6th and 7th grade students will attend school from 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM for an afternoon half day.

Transportation for 6th and 7th grade students will be provided both to and from school.

[Adjusted pickup times for 6th and 7th grade students can be found by following this link:](#)

8th grade students will test from 8:10 AM - 11:25 AM. 8th grade students will be served lunch from 11:25 AM - 11:55 AM. 6th and 7th grade students will not be served lunch on 4/15, as it is a half day for those students.

All students will attend classes in the afternoon with the following schedule:

1st hour - 12:00 - 12:30

2nd hour - 12:35 - 1:00

3rd hour - 1:05 - 1:30  
4th hour - 1:35 - 2:00  
5th hour - 2:05 - 2:30  
6th hour - 2:35 - 3:00

### **April 22nd - M-STEP ALL GRADES**

6th and 7th Grade - MSTEP ELA  
8th Grade - MSTEP Science

All testing will occur from 8:10 - 11:15 AM  
Afternoon schedule will run periods 1 - 6 on a shortened schedule

### **April 23rd - M-STEP ALL GRADES**

6th and 7th Grade - MSTEP MATH  
8th Grade - MSTEP SOCIAL STUDIES

All testing will occur from 8:10 - 11:15 AM  
Afternoon schedule will run periods 1 - 6 on a shortened schedule

### **May 6th - iReady Reading**

All students will complete the 3rd iReady reading diagnostic assessment from 8:10 - 11:15 AM, followed by periods 1 - 6 in the afternoon.

### **May 8th - iReady Math**

All students will complete the 3rd iReady math diagnostic assessment from 8:10 - 11:15 AM, followed by periods 1 - 6 in the afternoon.

If you have any questions regarding the PSAT Assessment, please contact Mrs. Akins at [ConnieAkins@wlcsd.org](mailto:ConnieAkins@wlcsd.org)

If you have any questions regarding the M-Step Assessment, please contact Mr. Lewandowski at [JohnLewandowski@wlcsd.org](mailto:JohnLewandowski@wlcsd.org)

If you have any questions regarding iReady testing, please contact Mr. Taboh at [SethTaboh@wlcsd.org](mailto:SethTaboh@wlcsd.org)

### **8th Grade Year End Activity Dates - Previously Communicated**

As we begin to get closer to the end of the school year, I wanted to share some dates with our 8th grade families to add to your calendars. More information on each of these events will be shared as we get closer to the end of the school year:

**Monday, June 9th - 1:00 - 3:00 PM:**

- 8th Grade Ceremony Rehearsal - Required for all students planning to attend the 8th grade Ceremony

**Monday, June 9th - 3:00 - 5:00 PM:**

- 8th Grade Party

**Tuesday, June 10th - 9:30 - 10:45 AM:**

- 8th Grade Ceremony
  - I will share out detailed information about our 8th grade ceremony in the coming weeks, but please note the following key details:
    - **Doors will open at 8:45 and close at 9:25 to ensure an on-time and uninterrupted start at 9:30, please plan accordingly**
    - **Each 8th grader will have a maximum of four guests attend the ceremony to provide for enough seating**

**Wednesday, June 11th - 11:40 AM:**

- 8th Grade Clap out
  - More information will be shared as we approach the last day of school. Parents will be invited to meet their students in the East Courtyard (Gym side) as they are clapped out of the school by our 6th and 7th grade students

**WEB Student Leader Applications - Previously Communicated**

Walnut Creek Middle School is beginning the application process for students to become WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) Leaders for the 2025-2026 school year. The message below will be read on the morning announcements beginning Monday.

Are you a 7<sup>th</sup> Grader? Do you have what it takes to be a leader? Join WEB! WEB is an orientation program to welcome in our 6<sup>th</sup> graders so that they get off to a great start at Walnut Creek Middle School by building relationships and creating connections 6<sup>th</sup> graders can trust. We are looking for EVERY type of student that goes to our school, not just those who are already recognized as leaders. When our WEB Leader team is a cross-section of our student body, every 6<sup>th</sup> grader will see and know that our school accepts and appreciates the person they are. Applications are located in the Main Office and are due by Friday, April 25.

**2025 - 2026 NJHS Information - Previously Communicated**

Attention prospective National Junior Honors Society (NJHS) students and parents. Applications for NJHS will be taken in the fall of the 2025-2026 school year. This is a slight deviation from past practices as middle school redistricting takes place. The idea is that all students being placed into a new school will have time to settle in before we begin the NJHS application process. Look for information and application forms in September of 2025.

### **Inclusion T-shirt -Previously Communicated**

Our ASD program teachers are currently selling "Inclusion Matters" t-shirts. If you would like to order a Walnut Creek Inclusion Matters t-shirt, please see the link below:

<https://walnutcreekspirit.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

### **Middle School Dance Team Information - Previously Communicated**

#### **Walled Lake Middle School Dance team Auditions 2025-2026**

The Walled Lake Middle School dance team is a competitive dance program open to all 6th-8th graders in the Walled Lake school district. The team is associated with the Walled Lake Northern Dance Program and competes both regionally and nationally.

#### **Auditions:**

**May 6, 5-8:30pm @Clifford Smart and May 8, 5-8:30pm @Walnut Creek**

\*Both audition dates are mandatory to attend

Link to register: <https://forms.gle/Y42FTpk6d42FJTeE9>

After completing the form above you will be emailed an information packet with more details.

#### **Optional Prep Clinics:**

**April 4 and April 22 from 5-7pm @Clifford Smart**

Cost: \$10 Cash

Dancers will have the opportunity to work on skills required in auditions and receive feedback from coaches. Coaches will be available following each prep clinic to answer any questions from dancers and/or parents.

Any further questions- please email [walledlakemsdance@gmail.com](mailto:walledlakemsdance@gmail.com).

### **Morning Announcement Script - Previously Communicated**

Each morning, we start our school day with morning announcements. After we recite the pledge of allegiance, announce birthdays, and make other reminder announcements, Mr. Taboh reads a morning message to students. To see Mr. Taboh's morning message, you can always check the document linked below which is updated weekly:

[Morning Announcements Script](#)

Be well,

Seth Taboh  
Principal

Walnut Creek Middle School