Waynesboro Area Middle School

Family Newsletter

December 22, 2022

Waynesboro Area Middle School

Coming Up at WAMS!!!

12/23/22- 1/02/23 - Winter Break!

1/13/23 - Teacher In-service, no school for students

1/16/23 - MLK Day - No School

1/19/23 - 2nd Marking Period Ends

2/10/23 - Valentine's Day Dance

2/16/23 - Early Dismissal for students

2/17/23 - Teacher In-Service, no school for students

2/20/23 - President's day - no school

2/24/23 - School Play 7:00 PM

2/25/23 School Play 11:00 AM

Athletics

Click HERE to access the District Athletics Website.

Click HERE to access WASD ArbiterLive for available schedules , practices, etc.

For all other questions or information regarding athletics please call the athletic office at 717-762-1191 ext: 1221

Athletic events, practices, etc. are not handled or planned at the building level.

Please follow THIS link to see the 2022-23 WASD Calendar.

Holiday Edition

Happy Holidays! I hope you enjoy the Holiday Edition of the WAMS Newsletter! November and the start of December has been busy and it has flown by! Some highlights below include the Moana performance, Conferences, Thanksgiving Break, Holiday Concerts, and the Jingle Bell 5k Run/Walk.

January and more winter weather will be here before we know it! Some things to look forward to are the end of the second marking period, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and snowy weather!



Mr. DeAngelis - Principal's Message

Mr. Klink - Assistant Principal

Mr. Newhard - Assistant Principal

In addition to this Newsletter, please also make sure to be regularly checking the School Website, the Parent/Guardian Portal, Abre and the WAMS Facebook Page. Information is also shared via boroblasts and email. Also, check out the District Website! Thanks!

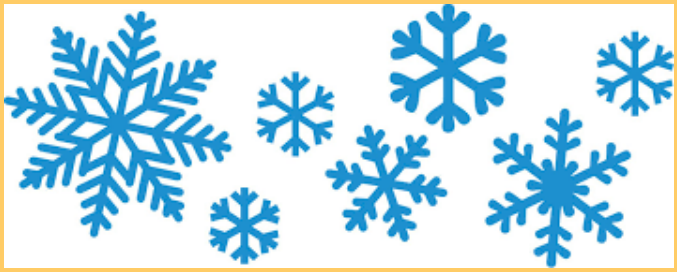
WASD Tech Help Desk for Learners

If your child's Chromebook is in need of repair, please submit a ticket through the WASD Learner Help Desk. Click HERE to access the site.


Happy Holidays!
WASD will be closed for the
Holidays from Friday, Dec. 23rd
through Sunday, Jan. 1st.
We look forward to seeing
everyone next year!

WAMS Happenings

- Monday, January 2nd is now a School day!
- The end of the Marking Period is Thursday, January 19th!
- Eligible students had the opportunity to choose Elective WIN classes for the second semester of the year. I look forward to students enjoying these classes!
- The 3rd Related Arts rotation ends on Thursday, January 12, 2023 students will move to their Related Arts 4th rotation on Monday, January 17th.



Winter is coming!

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- Doors do not open until 7:15 a.m. please be sure your student is dressed warm while waiting to enter the building.
- Please encourage your children to use crosswalks and to stay on sidewalks! These areas are treated and cleared during inclement weather!
- With Winter unfortunately comes illness! Just a reminder if your child has a fever or is vomiting they cannot come to school within 12-24 hours of having these symptoms!
- If your student feels unwell while at school they can always ask to see the nurse! Please remind students not to text you from the bathroom! It is important for students to see the nurse if they are feeling ill.



Counselor's Corner!

Mrs. Collette Rooney (6th grade) Ms. Diana Carey (7th grade) Mrs. Pam Shoap (8th grade)

THE STRUGGLE IS REAL!! (and also kind of necessary...)

Hello from your WAMS Counselors! We've been keeping busy recently, meeting with many learners to help them with their academic and personal/social needs. We're invested in their success and happiness, just like you. and just like you, it's hard for us to see kids struggle - our instinct as counselors is to rescue them from it. We're sure you can relate! But sometimes, rescuing them isn't what's best. Some of the best learning experiences and personal growth comes through difficulties. There is a story we'd like to share that illustrates this idea perfectly.

The Little Boy and The Butterfly

A young boy and his mother went for a walk one afternoon, and came across a butterfly cocoon. Excited to teach her son about the metamorphosis from chrysalis to beautiful monarch, they gently collected it and brought it home. They watched, over the course of days, as the butterfly began to emerge from its confinement. It managed to create a small hole in the cocoon, but its body was too large to emerge. It grew tired and became still.

Wanting to help the butterfly, the mother and son carefully snipped a slit in the cocoon with a pair of scissors. But the butterfly was small, weak, and its wings crumpled. They expected the insect to take flight, but instead it could only drag its undeveloped body along the ground. It was incapable of flying. In their eagerness to help the butterfly, they stunted its development. What they did not know was that the butterfly needed to go through the process of struggling against the cocoon to gain strength and fill its wings with blood. It was the struggle that made it stronger.


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It goes against the nature of any parent to watch their child struggle. And there are certainly times that your assistance is necessary. But middle school is a period of so much growth, and we all want our learners to have the opportunity to learn about themselves and about how the world works. Learning to advocate for themselves now will prepare them to be independent and confident adults in the years ahead. As the expression goes, "Do not prepare the road for your child; instead, prepare your child for the road." Equip kids with the tools they need to succeed, then step back and allow them to use them. It's certainly not the easiest thing to do, but all kids deserve to have the opportunity to thrive as independent adults.

Please let us know how we can help you help your children navigate the adventure we call middle school, and what tools they need to find their way.

Wishing all of our WAMS families a safe and memorable holiday season!

The Principal's Place!

WAMS Administration would like to wish all of our students, families, and community members Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year! This is a wonderful time to be thankful and spend time with friends and family. Holidays can be stressful! Please find time to unwind and relax! We look forward to seeing everyone next year!



What do I need to know about the office?



Fees & Obligations

On the Sapphire portal there is an area for fees. Click on the link to see if your learner owes anything to the school. If they have an outstanding fee you can find the missing textbook, calculator, sports uniform, etc and return it. If you are unable to find the missing item you can pay for it at the WAMS Office. We accept cash or checks made out to WASD.

Have you moved? Please update the WAMS office with your address and provide proof of residency.

Do you check the Sapphire portal? Announcements are updated on the portal, report cards are posted on the portal. If you do not have a WASD Sapphire portal go to this link. Here If you have forgotten your username or password contact the office.

If you have any questions or concerns always feel free to stop by the front office. You can also contact us at 717.762.1191x1306

IMPORTANT FOR ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

Photo Id's are required to pick up a learner. Even if you send a note you must present your photo id at the office.

Parents ~ if your child is tardy they are permitted to come into the building without a parent. However if you are picking up your student you must come in the building to sign your child out. You must have a photo id to pick up your child.

If you need a grandparent, relative or friend to pick up your child please specify on the note who will be picking up your child. **A photo ID must be shown in order to pick up any learner at WAMS.**

When a student is absent or leaving early for an appointment parents should send in a note. Those notes are turned into the office first thing in the morning.

If you forget to send a note no need to worry ~ just call the WAMS Office and let us know. We will have you write a note when you pick up your learner.

Excuses are due within 3 days of your learner returning to school. You may also email Mrs. Fleagle at mary_fleagle@wasdpa.org with a note.

Related Arts Spotlight

Music filled the air this week as the Holiday Chorus Concert was held on Monday, December 19th and the Holiday Band Concert was held Tuesday, December 20th. Students worked hard memorizing songs as our 6th grade Chorus, Boro Bravos and 7th & 8th grade Chorus performed. The band's concert was filled with many holiday favorites, toe tappers and even some cool jazz!





What is the biggest question that parents ask at parent-teacher conferences? **"How can I know my learner's work and if they have it turned in?"** One of the best ways is for parents to have a Schoology account where they can see what is going on with their classes. To get this you simply need to email the team leader for your learner and ask for the Schoology Parent Access code. If you have multiple learners at WAMS they will each have a different code. However, you will only need one account. This will allow you to see their assignments in Schoology and if they have submitted their work for that assignment.

After you get the code you will go HERE and create a parent account if you don't already have one. If you are a district employee DO NOT use your district email address. Then you will enter in your codes to add access to your learners. Once you have registered for parent access you will have it from year to year. You will not have to re-register each year.

Our parent help site has some videos that are helpful as well. You can find that site by clicking

HERE.

Dress Code! Updated!!!

The Waynesboro Area School District has a dress code that is enforced everyday! If you have not had a chance to read the district Dress Code please do so HERE!

Students who are sent to the office for dress code will have the opportunity to change if they have alternative clothes, may choose from extra clothing items we have available in the nurse's office (all laundered after each use), or may call home for additional clothing items to be brought into school.

Bullying....

Bullying is **NOT tolerated** in the Middle School or in the District! If you suspect bullying in any way please alert school staff **immediately**! It is extremely important that students report bullying and other inappropriate interactions as quickly as possible. **We as school staff and officials will be unable to help or address the issue if we don't know it's happening!**

If cyber-bullying or bullying in general is occurring off of school grounds or after school hours my recommendation is to call the Boro Police, Washington Township Police, or PA State Police depending on where you live or where the incident happened. ***After calling the police please let school staff know about the incident so we can take proactive measures here in the building.*** In case of cyber-bullying, I also recommend taking screenshots, pictures, or videos of the incident on social media to give to the police.

The district policy regarding bullying can be accessed HERE.

Team Leaders!

Team	Team Leader	Team	Team Leader	Team	Team Leader
6A	Joseph Minich	7A	Ken Carlson	8A	Catherine Myers
6B	Nichole Embly	7B	Chris Dennis	8B	Sarah Hodge
6C	Jessica Flack	7C	Tawnya Finney	8C	Zach Horn
Special Education	Holly Hess	7D	Evan Butts	8D	Brandy Spielman

Team 6A - We would like to wish you all a fantastic holiday season! We are looking forward to a restful break that will prepare us for the upcoming end of marking period 2 on January 19th.

Team 6B - Have a fabulous holiday season! Take this time to relax with family and friends and have lots of fun!! We can't wait to see everyone in 2023.

Team 6C - Team 6C teachers wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season!

Team 7A: Happy Holidays!

Team 7B: Generally speaking, our 7B students continue to work hard as they're learning new skills and concepts. We're looking forward to a Holiday Reward Day that we're hopeful the weather doesn't rain (or snow) on our parade.

Team 7C: Winter is nature's way of giving us a time to recharge! Here's to hoping that your holiday and winter season are filled with family, friends, and fun and that you are able to relax.

Team 7D: Reward Day is coming soon! Be sure to check your grades and complete any missing work. Additional details coming soon.

Team 8A: We would like to thank all the 8A students for working so hard on their benchmarks over the last few weeks. In December they are completing benchmarking through Exact path and Study island in Math and ELA. In Science they are taking their second benchmark this year through Study Island.

Team 8B: Happy Holidays!

Team 8C: would like to wish all of our students and their families a happy holiday season! Enjoy a well-deserved break this holiday as we gear up for the end of the 2nd marking period. Our team reward day is approaching in January! Be sure that your child qualifies by ensuring that they complete any missing assignments.

Team 8D: Team 8D is very excited to welcome Mr. Justin Lahaza to our team! He has taken over for Dr. Wynkoop who has moved on to a new position as our school's math interventionist. We are so glad to have him and know that he is going to be a great addition to the 8D family.

Cell Phone Policy!

Cell Phones are **NOT** permitted to be used during the school day! Students are encouraged not to bring cellphones to school at all! If your students decide to bring a cell phone, it is advised to keep the phone off and put away in their locker or bookbag. If the student chooses to keep the phone on them, it must be off and not visible at all times! If the student is caught using their phone FOR ANY REASON during the school day the phone will be confiscated and consequences are issued. Please note: this includes calling because the student is sick! If a student is sick, they should go to the nurse immediately to receive treatment! Students may then call from the nurse's office. Remember; OFF and AWAY!

Please note: this includes Airpods, earbuds, smart watches, and other devices/technology! Airpods/earbuds are permitted at teacher discretion to connect only to the Chromebook for instructional purposes. The District is not responsible for any loss, damage, or theft of phones or personal devices.



Library Corner



Curl up with a good book over this Holiday Season! If you are looking for recommendations for books for your middle schoolers, Good Reads has lots of great ideas. If your student enjoys TikTok, BookTok also has popular book recommendations. The new Bixby Timmons book by local author, Dwight Karkan, was just released this month too. Enjoy the Holiday Season. Happy Reading!

Contact holly_witmer@wasdpa.org, with any library related questions.

IMPORTANT Safety Info for Families

Several WASD Board policies reference the use of prescription medications and use/possession of drugs or alcohol on school property.

- POLICY 210 - Medications
  All prescription and over-the-counter medications MUST be kept in the school nurse's office at all times unless medical documentation is on file for the learner to self carry. Common examples include inhalers and epipens. Please contact our school nurse, Mrs. Torey Kauffman (Torey_Kauffman@wasdpa.org) with any questions.

- POLICY 222 - Tobacco and Vaping Products
  All tobacco products and vaping products are prohibited on school property and on school-sponsored events. Learners found to be in possession of tobacco and/or vaping products are subject to disciplinary consequences and referral for prosecution.

- POLICY 227 - Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
  Controlled substances , look-alike drugs, and paraphernalia are prohibited on school property and on school-sponsored events. "Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution."

*Please review these policies and talk to your child about the **importance of keeping these illegal substances out of our schools**.*

Lunch Policy 2022-2023

For the latest and most up-to-date information regarding district food services please go HERE!

Unfortunately the federal food grant allowing free breakfast and lunches for all of our

students has ended across the state. This school year parents who are electing to have their students eat in school will need to pay for lunches or complete the appropriate free and reduced lunch forms. Please visit Free and Reduced Lunch Benefits to visit the district free and reduced lunch form and information.

The current prices are listed below:

Elementary Breakfast	$1.75
Elementary Lunch	$2.75
Secondary Breakfast	$1.85 (Free Breakfast staying October 1st)
Secondary Lunch	$2.90
Reduced Breakfast	.30¢
Reduced Lunch	.40¢
Adult Lunch	$4.25
Milk	.60¢

Monthly menus are available to view here. This site will be updated once the school year begins!

For the latest and most up-to-date information regarding district food services please go HERE!

Students of the Month

Students of the month are commended for exemplifying the characteristics we hope to see in all of our learners - Respect, Kindness, Hard Work, and a Positive Attitude. Learners are selected based on nominations by the WASHS teaching staff.



WAMS Annual Holiday Shopping!

On Friday, December 12th WAMS was thrilled to continue its 6th Annual Holiday Shopping event! Every year Administration and Counselors select students and families in need to

take to Wal-mart for Holiday Shopping. This year, WAMS was able to take 30 students and provide $100 dollars each for the Holidays. This annual event is always something we anticipate and something I look forward to continuing each year.

This year we had a very special bus driver!

I want to specially thank the bus driver, transportation, district staff, and all administration that make this event possible each year!



Are you in? (The Yearbook that is!)

Yearbooks are now available through online sales only. You can order online at https://mrcl.ink/yearbook)



Winter Running Club

The WAMS Winter Running Club is a fun way for students in 6th, 7th or 8th grade to stay in shape during the cold winter months. Winter Running Club will resume in January, when students return to school. If your son or daughter would like to join this club in 2023, please contact Coach Angie Fuss for more information.



Attendance Matters!!

Regular attendance is an important part of your student's success at WAMS!
Please review the following policies and go over them with your child.

On the day a student returns to school, parents should send a written note stating the date and reason for the absence. When no excuse is received within three days of return, the absence is considered unlawful. In addition, a doctor/professional note is required if a student is out 3 or more consecutive school days. Notes are always needed for students leaving school early for appointments. Even if your student is 18 or older, notes are required to leave school before dismissal. If you need to pick your student up early for an appointment, please provide a note in advance. Doing so helps school staff get your student out of class on time for their dismissal. Please send negative COVID results with your child if they have been out for COVID testing.
If an absence note is not received within three days and the student accumulates 6 or more unexcused absences, the student will then be referred to the county truancy court office. Truancy, the illegal or unexcused absence from school, violates the attendance policies of the Waynesboro Area School District and state law. If convicted of truancy, a parent, guardian, or person acting as the parent of a child can be subject to any or all of the following sentences:

- Payment of a fine not exceeding $300, plus court costs (first offense)
- Required community service for a period of up to six (6) months
- Completion of a mandatory parenting education program
    - Failure to pay truancy fines, complete assigned community service, and/or parenting education programs can result in a jail sentence for the parent or guardian for a period not to exceed five (5) days. Under the law, school district attendance officers and state and municipal police officers are given full police power and may arrest or apprehend any child who fails to attend school in compliance with the provisions of Act 29.

Please check your student's Sapphire Community Portal periodically. It is important to make sure your student has turned in their notes and their attendance record is accurate. Your child may become ineligible for school dances, parking passes, or other school-based activities if they have excessive unexcused absences. Again, thank you for your patience and understanding during this school year and for reinforcing policies and procedure

Effective January 3, 2023

Secondary	Elementary
Tardy = 7:38 am - 8:50 am	Tardy = 8:51 am - 9:50 am
Half Day = 8:51 am - 1:15 pm	Half Day = 9:51 am - 2:15 pm
Early Dismissal = 1:16 pm - EOD	Early Dismissal = 2:16 pm - EOD
Arrival between 8:50 am and 1:30 pm = half day absence	Arrival between 11:30 am and 2:30 pm = half day absence
Arrival after 1:30 pm = entire day absent	Arrival after 2:30 pm = entire day absent

WAMS Winter Wonderland Week

December 12 - 16

WAMS students and staff are invited to participate.

Grinch Monday ~ dress like your favorite Who from Whovilel

Tacky Tuesday ~ wear your ugly holiday sweater and/or holiday hat

Wednesday ~ 6th grade green, 7th grade red, 8th grade white

Thursday ~ Winter Sports day wear your favorite jersey

Friday ~ Cozy up in your favorite flannel



WAMS ANNUAL HOLIDAY DOOR DECORATION!!!

Every year WAMS runs a highly anticipated Holiday Door Decoration event that students and staff alike look forward to! The winner for this is Mrs. Bissot in 6th grade, Mrs. Reed in 7th grade, and Mrs. Pauselius' room in 8th grade! The winners receive a platter of cookies when we return from break!











Math Tutoring

Free Math Tutoring is available at Mont Alto United Methodist Church on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 pm, starting on October 4, 2022 and ending on April 25, 2023. The church is located at 10 S. Main Street, Mont Alto, PA. Tutoring assistance includes Elementary Math, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry and Calculus. If there is no school or early dismissal due to bad weather, there will be no tutoring. All tutors have received PA State Police and Child Abuse Clearances. For more information, please call Kim at (301) 788-8738.

We've Got Spirit! How About You?

This year WAMS has its own spirit wear store! Learners and family members can order WAMS pride t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, and more! The store will be open throughout the year and is available at www.waynesborospiritwear.com.



WAMS Safety and Security with Officer Matthews

Vehicle Operation on School Property

RULES OF THE ROAD

The roadways and parking lots that are upon the Waynesboro Area School District properties are governed by PA Vehicle Code Title 75 and therefore all laws and rules of the road apply. Speed Limits are clearly posted (15 MPH), Stop Signs and Do Not Enter Signs are also posted at various locations to ensure the utmost safety of our students, faculty, staff and visitors. Violators of PA traffic laws may be cited upon a State Traffic Citation which could result in fines and points assessed to their driving records.

PARKING

Parking on Waynesboro Area School District properties is a privilege and not a right. Visitor parking stalls are for visitors. Violations of parking regulations can result in a parking ticket being issued, fines levied and for repeated violations towed away at owners' expense.

WASD Student User Accounts

As a reminder to our families, WASD implemented password complexity and history requirements in Spring, 2022. These requirements are enforced on all our district provided accounts including student accounts. ***This means that students are no longer able to use a simple password such as their lunch number.***

The district password policy requirements are as follows:

- **Users will be ask to change their password every 60 days**
- Users won't be able to use their previous 10 passwords
- Passwords must be at least 6 Characters
- Passwords can't contain any part of the users name
- Passwords must contain at least three of the following:
- Uppercase Letter
- Lowercase Letter
- Number
- Symbol

Message from the School Nurse:

As a reminder the nursing office offers FREE covid testing during school hours for students.
Please remember to turn in 6th grade physicals and 7th grade dentals.
Please visit the District Nurse's page HERE.

Admin Contacts

Mr. Eric DeAngelis, Building Principal
eric_deangelis@wasdpa.org
717-762-1191 x1301

Mr. Mark Klink, Assistant Principal
mark_klink@wasdpa.org
717-762-1191 x1302

Mr. Ben Newhard, Assistant Principal
ben_newhard@wasdpa.org
717-762-1191 x 1303

Ms. Mary Fleagle, Attendance Secretary
mary_fleagle@wasdpa.org

Mrs. Beth Rock, Secretary
beth_rock@wasdpa.org



It's Everything WASD,
in your pocket.

Cafeteria Menus · Events · Staff Directory · Alerts · Athletics

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

School Counseling Contacts

Mrs. Collette Rooney, 6th Grade Counselor
collette_rooney@wasdpa.org
717-762-1191 x1313

Ms. Diana Carey, 7th Grade Counselor
diana_carey@wasdpa.org
717-762-1191 x1311

Mrs. Pamela Shoap, 8th Grade Counselor
pamela_shoap@wasdpa.org
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Thank you!