



Urban Update

Urban Update is published quarterly for the parents and students of Urban Middle School
May 2025

Urban Middle School
1226 North Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Dr. Ted DiStefano, Principal
459-3681

Judy Kapellen, Sub Asst. Principal
459-3682

Dear Urban Middle School Families,

We are so excited for the end of the year awards ceremonies across the building. Awards Day for all grades are tentatively scheduled for Thursday, **May 29th** during the school day.

7th Grade Awards
12:30 - 1:15 pm

6th Grade Awards
1:15 - 2:00 pm

8th Grade Awards
2:00 -3:00 pm

The 8th Grade Awards will be in the afternoon prior to dismissal followed by a Celebration, which will be held from 3:15-5p. The 8th grade teachers encourage you to attend the Celebration.

The after-school 8th-grade celebration is open to students who meet the following criteria: (This will be from May 2nd to May 29th)

1. No suspensions
2. No skipping classes
3. No excessive tardies / absences
4. No major cafeteria infractions
5. Teacher discretion

It's getting close to the end of the school year, please review your child's grades and attendance data in Skyward.

Please consider signing your child up for summer school if they are struggling academically. It is a great program!

Education is not just about getting good grades. It's about opening doors, exploring new ideas, and developing a love of learning. Parents can play a key role in fostering that love. ~Unknown

Your active involvement in your child's education is key to their success.

Thank you so much for your partnership!

Dr. Ted DiStefano
Principal, Urban Middle School

Mornings at Urban Middle School

Students will be outside of the building until the 7:30 A.M. bell unless the temperature or wind chill is below zero or it is raining/snowing. Due to a lack of staff and supervision we are unable to open the building before 7:15 regardless of the weather.

Metro Bus Service - Free to All Students

The district continues to partner with Shoreline Metro Bus Service to provide free transportation to all SASD students. Routes and Schedules are available [HERE](#).

Notes from the Assistant Principal

Greetings Urban families,

As we come to the end of the year at Urban Middle School, it is a good time to reflect on what we have achieved and look forward to an even more successful 2025/2026 school year! First, allow me to begin by sending you a THANK YOU for your continued support for our school. I applaud your effort and interest for working in partnership with us to ensure that your children have a wonderful learning experience. Although I just came halfway through the school year, I have enjoyed working with our students, staff and families very much. Everyone has helped me and I have learned a ton of new vocabulary and new ways of doing things. We are so lucky to have such interesting, joyful learners at our school.

Tis' the season for testing. We just completed our Forward Testing, and now we are shifting gears as our students finish the final leg of our STAR testing this year. Please make sure that students are getting plenty of rest, that students are arriving on time, and they are eating a healthy breakfast for those students who eat prior to arriving at school.

On May 2nd Urban Middle hosted a very special day. Our day began with Urban's annual Talent Show. The talent was first rate and the student audience was respectfully enthusiastic! Thank you to everyone who planned, participated and supported our performers. A special thanks to our outstanding staff organizers, Mrs. Preder and Mrs. Kiel. Next, came our fun, old fashioned PBIS Carnival. Students who had less than three 3 major ODRs in defiance, disrespect, and disruption, had all passing grades and had no ISS or OSS during April 14th - May 1st were eligible to attend. Students were able to pie staff members, play various games for prizes, shoot baskets and enjoyed popcorn from the newly purchased student council popcorn machine. Watching our students enjoy a relaxing day with their classmates while being rewarded for displaying positive behaviors was a great experience to end our week!

As we close the year our teams are preparing for various celebrations. Each grade level has planned various field trips as a nice send off for the students.

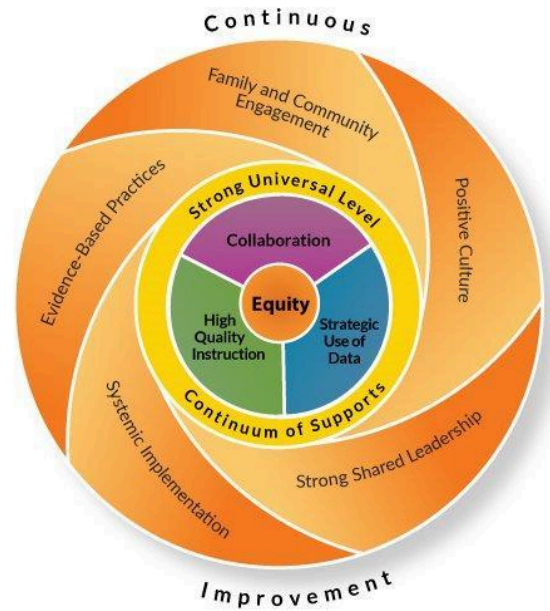
Let's continue to have a great year and GO KNIGHTS!

Judy Kapellen, Sub Asst. Principal
jkapellen@sasd.net
(920) 459-3682

Response to Intervention and Universal Instruction

Wisconsin's Equitable Multi-level Systems of Supports was introduced in the 2017-2018 school year. This includes **RtI** (Response to Intervention) and **PBIS** (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports).

Schools provide varying types of support at different levels of intensity to proactively and responsively adjust to the needs of the whole child (intervention or additional challenges). These include the knowledge, skills, and habits learners need for success beyond high school, including developmental, academic, behavioral, social, and emotional skills.



WIN (What I Need) Class

The purpose of WIN class is to provide additional practice in math and/or literacy skills. As part of our commitment to every learner, you received the following communication from the district last April.

Remediation: *At the start of the school year your child will be assessed in a variety of ways. This is to ensure any learning gaps resulting from the school closure are both identified and addressed in a manner that makes certain that your child's instruction meets their needs and readiness levels.*

All students were identified for WIN class based on STAR Reading and Math assessments from past and present school years along with teacher recommendations, grades, participation, and behavior to determine what academic supports will best meet the needs of each student in the area of reading or math. Academic supports may include but are not limited to: Reading Plus, Lexia PowerUp, ALEKS Math, myOn, Newsela, NoRedInk, Read Naturally Live, independent reading, and the reteaching of essential skills. In Skyward, this pass/fail class is labeled as WIN which occurs in the middle of the academic support block. Students are expected to meet their goals by midnight on Sunday as our digital platforms reset with a fresh start each week.

Goal setting is used during WIN class to help students monitor and reflect on their progress over time. Teachers will review with students STAR assessments in both math and reading, grades, and common assessments to help students set goals and reflect on: How do I know I'm progressing?

Reminder to Parents:

When calling your child(ren) in absent, tardy, or for an appointment, please call the main Urban line, 920-459-3680, and press #1. This line is available 24 hours a day. You can leave a message with your child's name and grade/team. For absences greater than 2 days, students may go to their teachers' Powerschool or Google Classroom pages to find out their assignments.

School Closing Information:

If early morning weather conditions warrant the possibility of closing schools for the day or delaying the start of school, please tune into any of the following radio or television stations for information on delays or closings.

WBAY-TV 2 WTMJ-TV 4 WFRV-TV 5 WITI-TV 6

WXER-104.5 WJUB-1420 AM WHBL-1003 AM

WJTT-98.1

Or visit our district website at www.sheboygan.k12.wi.us



Got Your Shots?

The Wisconsin Immunization Law requires students entering grades 6 and 12 to show proof of having received two doses of the chickenpox vaccine or report a history of having the disease. Students entering grades 6, 9, and 12 need to show proof of having received a dose of Tdap or tetanus containing booster within the past 5 years. Please review your child's record and see if your child meets School Law Requirements.

Box Tops for Education

Once again, Urban Middle School will be participating in the Box Tops for Education Program. Money earned goes to help students who are unable to purchase necessary school supplies, pay for field trips, pay for allied arts projects, etc.

Here is how it works:

First - Load the Box Tops APP

Second - Buy Box Top products

Third - Scan your receipt

Fourth - Submit your receipt within fourteen days of purchase.

Thank you in advance for helping our school earn free money by participating in this program.

Kim Preder

Box Tops for Education Coordinator



EARN CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL

LITTLE BY LITTLE WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

The Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earnings online.

LOOK
FOR THE
LABEL:

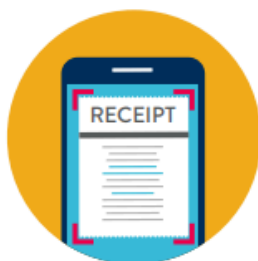


HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



BUY BOX TOPS PRODUCTS

You can find Box Tops on hundreds of products throughout the store.



SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

Use the app to snap a photo of your receipt within 14 days of purchase.



EARN CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Box Tops earnings are identified and automatically updated online.

SHOPPING FOR GROCERIES ONLINE?

You can still earn Box Tops for your school with your e-receipt!

See how at [BTFE.com/emailgroceryreceipts](https://www.btfe.com/emailgroceryreceipts)



BOX TOPS CLIPS

SASD CELLULAR TELEPHONE POLICY

Parent permission is no longer required for a student to possess a cell phone at school. However, the only time they are allowed to be used are with teacher or staff permission. ***For that reason, the telephone needs to be turned off or silenced and then put away from the time students enter the building to the end of the day, including all breaks.*** After school, at dismissal time, cell phones can be used to arrange for rides home. If students stay after school for a planned activity, phones again must be turned off and put away. Phones may not be loaned to others unless teacher permission is secured. If a student is observed using a cell phone in class, during lunch, or in the hallway during the school day, the phone will be taken away, a bottomline referral will be written, and a parent will need to pick up the phone in the school office. Additionally, if the phone becomes disruptive to the school environment or the rules above are violated, permission may be terminated.

LUNCH ACCOUNTS

Lunch applications will be available during registration at all schools starting August 1, online at www.sheboygan.k12.wi.us and at School Nutrition at South High in Room 138. Online applications are also available.

Reminder that the schools have drop boxes for payments. Call your school for the exact locations. Payments dropped at the schools will be deposited within 2-3 business days OR online payments can be made at www.MySchoolBucks.com using your child's i.d. #. This is an online payment service that provides parents the ability to securely pay for meals, monitor student cafeteria purchases and receive email notifications for low account balances for a fee. If you need assistance with the enrollment process, please call MySchoolBucks Customer Support at [1-855-832-5226](tel:1-855-832-5226). **Please be advised that there is a \$2.75 fee for every online deposit made into your child's account, regardless of deposit amount. Your student is also allowed to bring cash to lunch and deposit fee free, but the cash deposits receive no cash back. What they give is what is applied to their accounts.**

***Remember that breakfast and lunch are free for all students for the 2024-2025 school year.**

School Connectedness and School Activities

This school year, over 214 students, or 38% of our students participated in at least one of our sports offered here at Urban. As a school, we have seen a large number of students participating in sports and the support of the student body showing their support for our teams. We are fortunate to have coaches that are dedicated to our students and their sports which has created a large athletic program here at Urban. I am looking forward to our athletic programs growing again next year.

We will be starting cross-country practice two weeks before school starts next year. This is being done to make sure our runners are prepared for their first meet taking place before school starts. Current 6th and 7th-grade students who are interested in cross country for fall will be asked to sign up this spring so that we can get information to them in late summer about practices from Coach Perronne.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me at mperronne@sasd.net.

Athletics	Fall Activities	Clubs & Organizations
Cross Country	Drama: Musical/Play	Student Council
Girls Volleyball	Lakeland Math Meet	Best Buddies
Boys Basketball	Winter Activities	F.I.S.H Club
Girls Basketball	Actors Club	Horticulture
Wrestling	Art Club	Jr. Red Raider Manufacturing
Tennis	Spring Activities	Math League
Track	Dance	Photography Club
	Kickball	Robotics
	A Knight of Talent	Stage Crew
		Weight Room

Michelle Perronne

Attendance/Student Records Secretary

Athletic Director/Cross Country Coach

Learning Today Leading Tomorrow

Team 6-1



- Please check in with your child to see if he or she still has earbuds!
- Is your child remembering to charge their Chromebook every night?

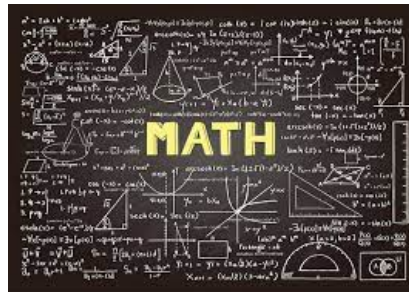
Mrs. McAndrews ELA/Social Studies	kmcandrews@sasd.net	920.459.3168
Mr. Londre Math/Social Studies	blondre@sasd.net	920.459.3169
Ms. Stryck Science/Social Studies	sstryck@sasd.net	920.459.3166

Mrs. McAndrews

HOMEWORK = 20 minutes of reading, 5 days a week!
Reading logs will continue until May 23rd

ELA-Students have been focusing on learning the various ways that text can be organized. This helps students understand why they are reading various texts and helps to improve their writing. Students have been working to identify signal words within a text, extract the information within it and complete a graphic organizer. They are then using this information to write 5 different types of paragraphs of their own.

Please keep reading over the summer. Don't let your brains go to mush! Look for Books on Bikes &/or join one of the summer reading programs at Mead Public Library!



Mr. Londre

Math- This has been an incredibly successful year. The classes have done a lot of thinking, organizing and developing strategies to solve multiple mathematical problems. We just finished up the study of Area, Surface Area and Volume. We will spend the remaining weeks studying Statistics and the relationships between two variables.

Ms. Stryck

Science- Let's talk about the weather! For this unit, students will gain insight into how the unequal heating and rotation of the Earth determine regional climates. We will also enjoy a lab that explains air pressure and how the interactions of air masses results in changes in weather conditions. Remember, **climate** is what you **expect** BUT **weather** is what you **get**! Students will learn about the different types of clouds and natural disasters we experience on our planet Earth. Spring is here so we're looking forward to getting outdoors for some of our scientific studies!

<p>Social Studies 4th Qtr: We recently finished a research project on various countries and their cultures. We spent some time learning about the Urban Middle School Research hub and how to access information for our projects. Students also wrote an essay, created a google slideshow, and gave a short presentation to their class. We will finish quarter 4 by focusing on economics.</p>	<p>Social Studies 4th Qtr: We have been studying world governments and citizenship. We will finish the year strong with a unit about economics as well as current events. Have a Wonderful Summer! :)</p>	<p>Social Studies 4th Qtr: We wrapped up quarter three learning about world governments and citizenship. We will finish the year strong with a unit about economics as well as current events.</p>
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Team 6-2

Please check in with your child to see if he or she still has earbuds!

Mrs. Pfister ELA/SS kpfister@sasd.net 920.459.3171	Cora Leonard Math/SS cleonard@sasd.net 920.459.3168	Mr. Berthiaume Science/SS rberthiaume@sasd.net 920.459.3162
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ELA

In ELA class we are currently learning about the different ways a text can be organized. Understanding text structure helps students understand what they are reading and also in their own writing. Students will identify signal words within a text, extract the information within it and complete a graphic organizer. Students will then compose five different informative paragraphs. The theme of this unit will revolve around "Survival". Students will have an opportunity to use VR Goggles and work on a STEM project as well.

Nightly reading continues to be an expectation. The last reading log will be due on May 23rd.

Science

In Science, we've been working on biomes and their Biorama's. The students completed their Marine Animal Newspaper Projects at the beginning of the 4th Quarter. After that, the next Units that will take us to the end of the year are the Weather/Climate Unit, along with the Waves Unit. The students will be looking at how to make a weather forecast, identify and explain the differences between each type of natural disaster, and develop a timeline of Tornadoes and Hurricanes. The students will also explore the different instruments a weatherman uses. The students will also look at the different types of waves that earth and deep outer space has that may affect life on earth. Please don't forget about our Field Trip to the Milwaukee County Zoo on June 3rd. Permission Slips and \$5 admission fee are due on May 2nd.

Math

Math- This has been an incredibly successful year. The classes have done a lot of hands on learning and peer work to solve multiple mathematical problems. We just finished up the study of Area, Surface Area and Volume. We will spend the remaining weeks studying Statistics and the relationships between two variables. We will also wrap up the school year by completing a math project incorporating a lot of content learned this year and skills needed to be successful this year.

Social Studies

In Social Studies, we recently finished a research project on various countries and their cultures. We spent some time learning about the Urban Middle School Research hub and how to access information for our projects. Students also wrote an essay, created a google slideshow, and gave a short presentation to their class. We will finish quarter 4 by focusing on economy. Specifically we will look at supply & demand, GDP and globalization.

Team 7-1

Mrs. Jones: Social Studies, Mrs. Bohman: Math, Mrs. Matczak: Science, Mrs. Scharenbroch: ELA

Language Arts

As we move towards the final stretch of the year we are continuing one of my favorite units: Book Clubs! We are reading the novel *When Stars are Scattered*. It is a graphic novel based on a true story about a boy who lives in Dadaab Refugee Camp in Kenya. He has the opportunity to go to school but struggles to leave behind his brother with special needs. It is a fantastic novel about overcoming challenges and working hard to achieve goals. Students will be reading independently, then meeting in groups to discuss the book and complete activities. This is a great way to work on both reading and communication skills!

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to email me at jscharenbroch@sasd.net

Social Studies

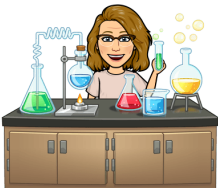
TODAY'S
your DAY!



As we are fastly approaching the end of the school year, we are closing out with our final unit of the year on World War II and The Holocaust. Students learned about WWI, along with Pearl Harbor and War in the Pacific prior to entering World War II. Students are learning the causes and outcomes and how it affects them today. Students can continue to check Google Classroom for assignments. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by email at sjones@sasd.net.

Have a relaxing summer!

Science amatczak@sasd.net



During May, we finish working on our Forces unit and begin the exciting bridge-building project. We have been using the Engineering Design Process (EDP) all year and have been studying how energy, forces, and motion all work

together in our world.

This bridge project allows students to do every step of the EPD and build a bridge that will then be "tested" to see how much force it can withstand. We will also calculate the efficiency rating. It is a great way to end our year and bring all of our units of study together.

Students will continue using Google Classroom as our major form of communication. Many assignments will be paper and pencil, digital copies are there as needed or for reference. Parents, you can find out the weekly plan by accessing the Daily Assignments Page on the Urban website, under the Academics tab as well. As the year winds down, please help your student by checking Skyward for missing work or low scores. The opportunities to make up work, for any reason, get tougher and tougher as the number of days decreases. If you need anything, please let Mrs. Matczak know and use the provided resources.

Math

Both math classes are entering their final modules for the year. What an amazing year it has been for math growth. I am super proud of how much each student has been to accomplish this year.

Remember to check out Google Classroom and the Urban Daily Assignments Page each Sunday for updated agendas.

Thank you for all the support this year.

Enjoy summer 😊

Team 7-2

Mrs. Buechel	Science/Social Studies jbuechel@sasd.net	920.459.3164
Ms. Horzen	ELA/Social Studies meganhorzen@sasd.net	920.459.3158
Ms. Jedrzejewski	Math/Social Studies rbollinger@sasd.net	920.459.3159
		
<p>Social Studies - We have begun our last unit of the year that focuses on World War II and the Holocaust. To begin this unit, we spent a short time on the causes and outcomes of World War I. We will then move into World War II, spending time looking at different primary and secondary sources that help the students understand what took place and why we learn about it today.</p> <p>Essential Questions: What was the Holocaust? What are primary and secondary sources and how are they used to study history?</p>		
<p>Science with Mrs. Buechel - The school year is fast approaching an end. Students will be finishing off the year creating their own wooden bridge with a partner using the engineering design process. Their bridges will be tested for the amount of force/load the bridge can withstand. The winners from each core class will write their name on a ceiling tile. Best of luck! Have a great summer!</p> 		
		
<p>Language Arts with Ms. Horzen - We have moved into book clubs in 7th Grade ELA! We are currently reading the novel <i>When Stars are Scattered</i>. Students will be reading independently and then meeting in groups to discuss the book and complete activities. Our focus will be on asking open-ended questions during discussion and how to carry on a meaningful conversation. This is a great way to work on both reading and communication skills! We will continue our Wednesday Read and Journal Days to help us work on boosting our reading & writing stamina and using strategies to monitor our comprehension. We will also be working on responding to our reading in a variety of ways. As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please email me at meganhorzen@sasd.net.</p>		
<p>Math with Ms. Jedrzejewski</p> <p>Accelerated Math In May 2025 we are wrapping up our understanding of linear relationships from Chapter 8, where we covered slope, slope-intercept form, direct variation, and graphing linear relationships. In May, our accelerated math class will delve into probability concepts, focusing on the likelihood of simple events, relative frequency, theoretical probability, and compound events. Building upon past concepts we will now apply mathematical reasoning to analyze and predict outcomes in various scenarios involving chance and combinations of events. This shift will provide a comprehensive exploration of mathematical concepts, enriching our problem-solving skills across diverse contexts.</p> <p>Course 2 Math As we step into May 2025, we're wrapping up our exciting journey of rates, unit rates, proportions, percentages, and their practical applications. The fundamentals of rates and unit rates, allow us to quantify and compare different quantities, paving the way for understanding proportions - a cornerstone of mathematical relationships. Moving onto Chapter 2, we'll immerse ourselves in the realm of percentages, exploring their significance in everyday scenarios such as calculating sales tax, discounts, and commissions. Understanding percent not only equips us with essential financial literacy skills but also empowers us to make informed decisions while shopping, budgeting, and beyond.</p> <p>Please contact me with any questions or concerns. cjdrzejewski@sasd.net</p>		

Team 8-1

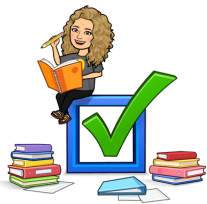
Mr. Berg: **Science/Social Studies**

Mrs. Wenninger: **ELA/Social Studies**

Mr. Gierke: **Course 3 Math/Algebra/Social Studies**



Science: The fourth quarter ushers in Astronomy. Astronomy topics include the Universe, Galaxies, Stars, and our Solar System. Your child should be able to tell you about the Big Bang, how stars are born and die, and our Solar System.



Language Arts: In the fourth quarter of ELA, we began with Forward testing. After Forward testing, we wrapped up our work with the novel, "The Giver." Students created projects that included timelines, creating a new book cover jacket, building the community, and making a poster to show their knowledge of what they learned. As we wrap up the end of the year, students read "Long Way Down" by Jason Reynolds and wrote their own ending to the story. Be sure to ask your child to read it, they are amazing!

Math:

Course 3 Math: We will work on Module 9 on Similar Triangles. We will finish the year learning about volume and surface area.

Algebra: Module 10 focuses on adding, subtracting, multiplying and factoring polynomials. We will complete the year in a unit covering quadratic equations.

Social Studies: In Social Studies, students have learned about how the United States moved across the west to create the nation that exists today. As we wrap up the year, we will focus on The Industrial Revolution and how it shaped how we use technology today. We will end our year with Civil War Book Clubs! Thanks for an amazing year!

You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. --Dr. Seuss

Team 8-2

Mrs. Bartzén: **Social Studies**
Ms. Zimmerman: **Science**

Mr. Fleuchaus: **Math**
Ms. Eklund: **ELA**

Social Studies

Fourth quarter social studies has walked us through the founding documents of the United States, the development of the government, and the Bill of Rights. For their final project of the year, students will be creating a timeline using research about historical events, legal acts, and important people from the periods of Westward Expansion, Industrial Revolution, and Civil War. Have a fantastic summer!



- Mrs. Bartzén

Math8

Course 3 Math:

We will finish the year in Module 10, learning about volume and surface area of various geometric figures. This unit will take up to the end of the school year.

Algebra:

Module 11 focuses on solving quadratic in various ways, including quadratic formula. This unit will take up to the end of the school year.

- Mr Fleuchaus

Science

The end of the year is quickly approaching. We are finishing the year in a unit about our solar system. Your child should be able to tell you the difference between a dwarf planet and a planet, information about each of the planets, and the phases of the moon.



-Ms. Zimmermann

Language Arts

In the fourth quarter of ELA, we began with Forward testing. After Forward testing, we worked through a unit in our HMH curriculum called Finding Your Path with a focus on poetry and answering the unit's essential question, "How do the challenges you face today help to shape your future?" We'll end the year with the novel *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds.



- Ms. Eklund



SHELF LIFE

A Newsletter from
Urban's Library

Due Dates

Library Materials:

All library materials (books, magazines, etc.) are due on May 29th. Students are responsible for making sure they return their library materials at this time. Regardless if their ELA class visits on this day.

Chromebooks:

All Chromebooks will be collected on May 30th. Students should come to school with their Chromebook and charger on this date. Library staff will assess the Chromebook and charger for any damages. Charges will be applied to students accounts where necessary for damage to Chromebook or missing charger.

Books on Bikes

Summer is just around the corner and that means it's time for Books on Bikes!

Each summer, the SASD librarians ride into the Sheboygan community each week to hand out FREE books and freeze pops. Last summer we gave away 795 books!

We visit local parks just about every Wednesday starting June 18th and ending on July 30.

For specific dates and times, visit our website at booksonbikessheboygan.org

Books on Bikes Sheboygan is accepting donations of new or gently used books (board books all the way up to adult novels) and freeze pops for our summer rides. Donations can be dropped off at Urban's library.

Summer Reading Program

Mead Summer Reading Program is starting soon! Sign up to get rewarded for reading over the summer! Have your Mead library card (or virtual library card number) handy and visit meadpl.org to get started.

End of the Year Events

May 23 No School - Professional Development Day

May 26th No School - Memorial Day

May 29th Awards/8th Grade Celebration

May 30th 8th Grade - Vollrath

June 2nd 7th Grade - Strand Adventures/Lincoln Zoo

June 3rd 6th Grade - Milwaukee Zoo

June 4th Last Day of School - Two Hour Early Release

September 1st No School - Labor Day

September 2nd First Day of School

September 26th No School - Professional Development Day

**Stay tuned for our next issue of the Urban Update
coming in October!**