

West Middle School

2700 Harvard
Lawrence, KS 66049
www.west.usd497.org
Telephone: 785-832-5500



A Note From Mr. Kempf

Dear West Families,

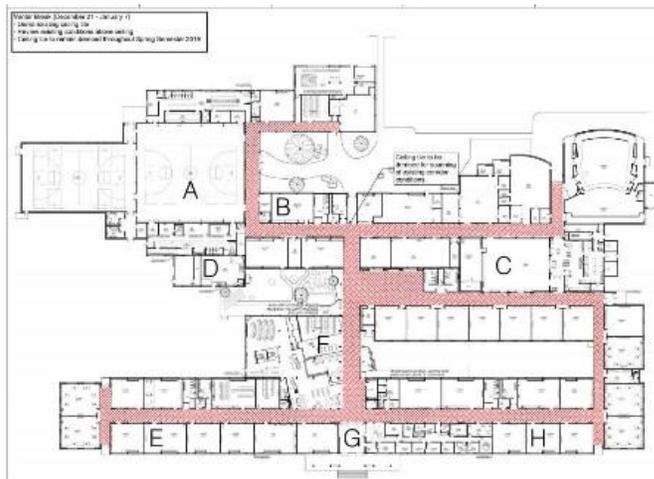
The first semester of the 2018-2019 school year is coming to a close! Students and staff have accomplished a lot this semester in the classroom and are looking forward to Winter Break. It is an exciting time for West Middle School as we begin the first stages of bond construction while students and staff are away from the building. Upon our return, our school will look different as all our hallway ceiling tiles will be removed so the construction crews can begin planning the fabrication our new HVAC system off site. This work will be completed after hours and will not disrupt the learning environment in 3rd quarter. We will continue to provide bond renovation updates throughout the 2nd semester.

Have a safe and restful break, and we look forward to seeing our students back on January 8, 2019!

Sincerely,

Brad Kempf

Principal
West Middle School



Brad Kempf
Principal

Kathy Branson
Vice Principal

Important Phone Numbers:

Athletics/Finance
Patti Taylor
330-4620

Attendance
Dawn Salisbury
330-2229

Guidance
Michelle Brady
330-2227

Nurse
Chanda Sheedy
330-2178

Kitchen
Elliott Beal
330-2510

Important Information and Dates

Dates:

- **Chorale Parent Meeting:** Jan. 17, 2019, 6:00pm
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School:** Jan. 21, 2019
- **Spelling Bee:** Jan. 24, 2019, 8:30am-9:30am
- **6th and 7th Grade Orchestra Concert:** Jan. 29, 2019, 7:00pm
- **6th and 7th Grade Band Concert:** Jan. 31, 2019, 7:00pm
- **8th Grade Tour of Free State High School:** Feb. 7, 2019, AM
- **Musical – Annie:** Feb. 21 at 7:00pm; Feb. 22 at 7:00m.; Feb. 23 at 1:00pm and 3:00pm
- **No School:** Feb. 22, 2019
- **End of 3rd Quarter:** Feb. 28, 2019
- **Chamber Concert:** Feb. 28, 2019, 7:00pm
- **No School:** Mar. 1, 2019
- **Parent Teacher Conferences:** Mar. 4 and Mar. 6, 2019, 4:15pm-7:30pm
- **No School:** Mar. 8, 2019
- **Spring Break:** Mar. 10 – 17, 2019

Warhawk Boy's Basketball 2019 Schedule:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
1/10	Thur	3:30	Southwest	Home
1/15	Tue	3:30	Liberty Memorial Central	LMCMS
1/22	Tue	3:30	Billy Mills M.S.	Home
1/24	Thur	3:30	Turner M.S.	Home
1/28	Mon	3:30	Washburn Rural M.S.	Home
2/4	Mon	3:30	Billy Mills M.S.	BMMS
2/7	Thur	3:30	Atchison M.S.	AMS
2/12	Tue	3:30	Liberty Memorial Central	Home
2/14	Thur	3:30	Southwest	SWMS
2/18 & 2/20		TBA	City Quad	Home

Important News

Student Services News

Our school counselors and other Student Services staff members are here to support students and their families. If you have questions or concerns about your child’s academic success or emotional health, we are here to help! Please call us before a concern becomes a problem.

Why contact your student’s counselor?

- Academics
- Scheduling & Enrollment
- Study Skills
- Peer/Social Concerns
- Difficult Decisions
- Family Changes
- Medical Concerns
- Emotional Health Concerns
- Successes & Accomplishments

If you have questions about a specific class, we suggest you start by speaking with the teacher directly first, as they will have more information on the situation. If the issue continues, we are happy to help!



Tiffany Fike	Students A-K	direct line:	330-2145
Carla Schmidt	Students L-Z	direct line:	330-4470
Michelle Brady	Secretary	direct line:	330-2227
Julie Ohse	School Social Worker	direct line:	330-2757
Ryan Robinson	School Resource Officer	direct line:	330-2711
Ginny Wessels	School Psychologist	direct line:	330-4449
Tara Chumley	Wrap Worker	direct line:	330-2140

Power School Questions:

For any PowerSchool questions, please see the following link for the district PowerSchool information page, or contact Michelle Brady at 330-2227.

<https://www.usd497.org/Domain/7638>



Nurse's News

Cold and flu season is here. There has been an increase in absences due to the common cold and the "stomach flu" which is common this time of year.

Deciding when to keep your child home from school is not always easy. It's important for children to attend school, however, for some parents staying home with a sick child means missing work. When a child is truly sick, the best place for them is at home in the care of an adult. This will allow them the necessary time to get well and it will also prevent the spread of the illness to others.

The following information compiled from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) may help you decide when to keep your child at home. The school also use these guidelines to determine when you will be called to pick your child up from school. This information applies to all school-aged children including adolescents. It is not intended to be inclusive of all illnesses or conditions that may indicate the need for your child to stay home from school. **This information does not take the place of a consultation with your medical provider.**

FEVER: A fever is defined as a temperature of 100°F or higher. Fevers are a **symptom** of a viral or bacterial infection. Children are likely to be contagious to others when they have a fever. If you do not have a thermometer and your child feels warm to your touch, they probably have a fever. Please do not give your child fever reducing medicine and then send them to school. The medicine will wear off, the fever will probably return and you would need to pick them up anyway.

WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL: Any child with a fever of 100°F or higher should not attend school and should not return until they have been fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

COMMON COLD: The common cold is a contagious upper respiratory infection caused by cold viruses. It is the most frequent childhood illness. Symptoms can last 7 to 14 days. A child with no fever, mild symptoms and otherwise feeling well may be fine at school.

WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL: A child with cold symptoms such as deep or uncontrollable coughing or significant lack of energy belongs at home even without a fever.

FLU (INFLUENZA): The flu is a highly contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses and can cause mild to severe illness. A person with influenza can be contagious up to one week after symptoms appear. Children are one of the biggest sources for spreading the flu.

WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL: A child with flu-like illness (fever and cough) must stay home from school for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicine. If symptoms occur while at school, the student must be picked up as soon as possible to go home. Contact a medical provider with severe symptoms.

COUGH: A mild hacking cough often starts after the first few days of a common cold. A child with mild symptoms, no fever and otherwise feeling well may be fine at school.

WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL: A child with deep or uncontrollable coughing belongs at home even without a fever. A child with cough and fever must stay home from school for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

SORE THROAT: A child with a mild sore throat, no fever and otherwise feeling well may be fine to attend school. A significantly sore throat could be strep throat, a contagious illness. Other symptoms may include fever, headache and upset stomach. Untreated strep throat can lead to serious complications.

WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL: Keep your child home from school if they have a severe sore throat. Contact your medical provider if they also have a fever, headache or upset stomach as this could indicate strep throat. Children diagnosed with strep throat are no longer infectious and can return to school 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has been started.

DIARRHEA/VOMITING: Vomiting and diarrhea are usually caused by a stomach virus. It is often called the “stomach flu” even though it is not caused by the influenza viruses. Vomiting may last for 12-24 hours and diarrhea may take several days to completely resolve.

WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL: Children who have vomited more than twice in 24 hours or have had 3 or more watery stools should be kept at home and should return to school only after being symptom-free for 24 hours. Consult your medical provider if your child also has a stomachache that is persistent or severe enough to limit activity.



Assessments

MAP Testing is underway for students and will continue as we start the 3rd Quarter. There will be MAP Testing the first two weeks of 3rd Quarter. There will also be Kansas State Assessments after Spring Break this year. MAP Testing and the Kansas State Assessments are important to our school and district. We ask for you to keep your students testing in mind and review the following resources.

Please help your student succeed on their assessments by making sure they...

- Check for IOS updates and run them before testing begins
- Charge their iPad and bring it to school
- Get a good nights' sleep
- Eat breakfast
- Arrive to school on time

Why do Well on Your Kansas Assessments?

1. Be Part of the Legacy of Excellence at WMS

Achievement is reported by year and grade level. When your grade level and our school demonstrate excellence, you contribute to the "West is Best" legacy.

2. Show what you know

The scores of WMS, along with all schools in the district and state, are published in the Lawrence Journal World and online. Help us prove that West is Best!

3. Effort & Achievement Valued

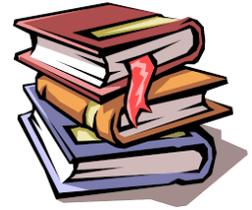
Knowing that you did your best to demonstrate what you really know will make you feel accomplished and proud.

4. West is Best!

Above all else, WMS strives for our students to be recognized for their academic achievement. Student test scores are a reflection of our school.

From the Library

The annual Scholastic Book Fair will be during Quarter 3 this year! Look for more information in February for dates and times.



Mark your calendars! The WMS library will be hosting the first ever **Family Reading Night on Tuesday, February 12**. We'll have guest readers in themed rooms, board games to try out, and support from the Lawrence Public Library for library card sign-ups to help you access all the free resources for learning and entertainment. More information will be shared with students and families in late January.

Don't Be Late!

School Starts at 8AM!

Students need to be **in their first class and ready to start** by the time the bell rings at **8:00AM**. Please make sure your child is here early enough to get to their first class on time.

Late to School:

If your child is going to be late to school, please make sure that they have a written note signed by a parent/guardian, or call the school and leave a message. If a child is late and does not have a written note or a telephone message by the beginning of school the next day, it will be counted as an Unexcused Tardy.



Student Hours / Cold Weather Policy

The building opens regularly to students at 7:50am. Students participating in the breakfast program may enter the auditorium doors at 7:30am and remain in the cafeteria until 7:50am.

During cold/inclement weather, students will have the privilege of sitting in the gym at 7:40am.



**Go directly to the Warhawk gym to read or talk quietly.
Disruptiveness will result in loss of this privilege!**

Yearbooks

The yearbook captures all of those once-in-a-lifetime memories in a single place. Be sure that your student will never forget them by purchasing a copy now.

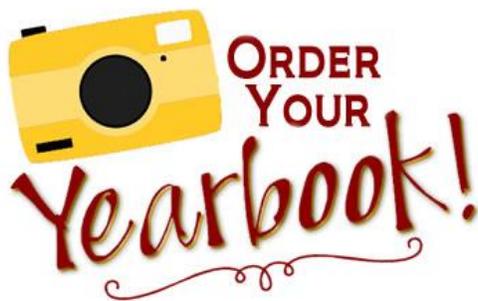
WMS Yearbooks are now on sale! Order a copy online today!

Yearbooks are \$25 each. To place your order, go to:

<https://www.yearbookordercenter.com/>

And use order number: **12815**.

For ordering help, or if you can't pay online, call the Yearbook Order Center toll free at (866) 287-3096 or email them at yearbookordercenter@herffjones.com



The West Middle School Junior Players present *Annie*!

And this year it's going to be extra special! While our musical is usually an abbreviated "Junior" version, we're not doing that this year. We have such great talent at West, so we've decided to do the full version! The show runs February 21, 22, and 23.

Tickets will be available at the school the week prior to the show and at the door. You may also purchase "reserved" seating by contacting Director Charlie Goolsby at the school. His number is 330-2151.

More information is available at the Junior Players' Website:

<http://wmstheatre.weebly.com>



West Track

Start Date: Monday, Mar. 18th

Student Informational Meeting: Tues., Mar. 5th from 3:15-4:00

Parent Informational Meeting: Tues., Feb. 26th at 6:00pm in the school library

All paperwork must be complete and turned into the West Office by Monday, March 18th.

Paperwork: Pick up the Athletic Packet in the foyer outside the West Office

*Physical – (Dated after May 1st, 2018)

*Insurance Form – (MUST be notarized)

*Concussion Form

*Code of Conduct

Note: If you have already participated in another sport this school year, your paperwork is already on file and does not need to be turned in again.

Help out West!



HyVee Dollars for Scholars Program – Please save your HyVee receipts and send them to WMS. We earn money for our school based on a percentage of your purchases. Receipt collection boxes are located in the office.



Boxtops for Education – Please clip and save Boxtops for Education. Our school earns \$5.00 for every 50 boxtops turned in. Please turn them into the office anytime throughout the school year. We appreciate your support!



Office Depot – Every time parents, students and school supports give your school's 5% Back to Schools ID number to Office Depot, our school receives credits equal to 5% of the qualifying purchases to use for **Free Supplies**. Our school ID# is: **70038536**

ABOUT AVID

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is a college-readiness system that prepares students in kindergarten through 12th grade for college eligibility and success. Since AVID began in 1980 in California, more than 4,800 schools and 41 institutions of higher education in 45 states and 16 countries have adopted the program. This has provided training for more than 30,000 educators each year and made a difference in the lives of more than 700,000 students. AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.



AVID aims to cultivate intrinsic motivation by creating a vision of academic success; to create and promote a belief that academic rigor is expected, possible, and attainable which leads to positive self-esteem and self-confidence; and to generate stronger students and teachers through the development of a consistent way to think and process information.

Did you know that *all* students at WMS are AVID students, but may not be *in* the AVID elective? WMS is an AVID schoolwide campus. Even if students are not enrolled in the AVID elective class, all WMS students have an opportunity to thrive in an environment where academic expectations are held high; inquiry-based pedagogy and collaboration are evidenced in all classrooms; systems and structures focus on the needs of students; and campus leadership has cultivated a culture of college readiness and success for all students.

Schoolwide AVID transforms the leadership, systems, instruction, and culture of a school, ensuring college and career readiness for every WMS student and improved academic performance for all students based on increased opportunities in the following ways:

- **Leadership:** School leadership sets the vision and tone to promote college and career readiness and high expectations for every student in the school.
- **Systems:** School systems are put in place to support governance, curriculum and instruction, data collection and analysis, professional learning, and student and parent outreach to ensure college and career readiness for every student.
- **Instruction:** Every teacher utilizes AVID strategies, other best instructional practices, and 21st century tools in daily instruction to ensure schoolwide emphasis on the skills needed to optimize learning and performance.
- **Culture:** The school's culture reflects and demonstrates the philosophy that every student can and will be successful, and it is the duty of every educator to see that every student is taught the skills and given the tools needed to be successful in college and beyond.

Beyond school-wide supports, USD497 currently offers the AVID elective to 7-12th grade students. AVID is not a remedial, niche or college outreach program. It is not a free ride or a study hall. Students must learn and apply the skills they are taught in their AVID elective class as well as do the academically rigorous work required.

What AVID is:

- AVID is a program for middle- to upper middle- academic students. These students have the potential for honors level and Advanced Placement (AP) course work but may need to develop the skills needed to be successful in those rigorous courses
- AVID combines rigor with support that includes the student's individual determination and the support of teachers, administrators, other AVID students, their families, and AVID tutors
- Students must maintain 2.5 or higher grade-point average (GPA) throughout the school year

What AVID is not:

- AVID is not a program for students at risk of not graduating
- AVID is not for students who don't do any of their homework
- AVID is not for the consistently D or F student
- AVID is not for unmotivated students who do not have the individual determination needed for success

Being in AVID is voluntary. AVID students sign the AVID Student Agreement indicating their commitment to the program and to their success. Students are highly encouraged to continue in AVID as they progress through middle school and high school. According to AVID's research, students experience the best results after being in the class for at least three years. AVID students usually choose to stay in AVID until they graduate from high school.

WHY AVID WORKS

- Places AVID students in rigorous curriculum and gives them the support to achieve
- Provides a team of students for positive peer identification
- Redefines the teacher's role as that of student advocate
- Transforms schools by creating a college-going culture throughout an entire school, impacting all students

APPLYING FOR AVID Families of students who are being offered an opportunity to be in the AVID class will receive a letter in the next few months inviting them to the AVID Family Information Night. A student information session is also held during the school day for students who receive the invitation letter. Students who receive the invitation and who are interested in being in AVID must complete the AVID Student Application and be interviewed by AVID staff. Students can also be nominated by a teacher or counselor. Attending the Family Information Night or a teacher/counselor nomination does not guarantee selection. All students who would like to apply to be in AVID must complete and submit the AVID Student Application and be interviewed to be considered for possible selection.

Furthermore, our AVID parents/guardians are an important part of our AVID team. Parents are provided information and support through various means so they can encourage and support their children to succeed. This way, the learning doesn't stop at school at the end of the school day but continues at home. We communicate with our AVID parents and guardians regularly. Family events and other opportunities for parent involvement are also offered throughout the year. We look forward to partnering with you for student success! #AllStudentsOneTeam

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FAX:
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WEBSITE:
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Lawrence Public Schools – USD 497
West Middle School
2700 Harvard
Lawrence, KS 66049

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ATTENTION!

The Parent Newsletter will only be available online. If you don't have the internet and want a hard copy, please call Michelle @ 785-330-2227 and one will be mailed to you.