



# Whisconier Wire

We at Whisconier Middle School will respect ourselves and one another, appreciate individual differences, and encourage one another to reach our potential.

*Volume 8, Issue 1*

*Fall  
Newsletter*

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Issue:**

**Greetings from the Principal - Mr. Deane Renda**

## **Another Exciting Year at WMS!**

Welcome back! I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer and your child has a had a great start to the year.

The school year marks the start of a four-year journey for our 5th graders and the continuation of that journey for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. At the same time it is the 8th graders last chance to experience the life of a middle school student. Each year the journey brings new opportunities for success, sometimes failure, but more importantly a chance to learn from these experiences. These are the experiences that will help each middle school student to discover and develop their academic and personal identity.

Ways to have a successful school year:

- ◆ Set up a consistent schedule for your child to do homework. Maybe even start a weekly chart or calendar to help with time– management skills.
- ◆ Set up an area of the house to do homework where there will be minimal interruptions or noise.
- ◆ Have expectations that your child will do their homework every night. That includes 20 minutes of pleasure reading daily.
- ◆ Ask your child everyday what he/she learned at school.
- ◆ Be a role model by sharing any of your new learning when possible.
- ◆ Always have an open line of communication with your child. Be mindful of how you react because it may encourage or discourage him/her from sharing with you in the future.

I am excited to start another school year. I hope your son/daughter enjoys the year at Whisconier Middle School.

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**“The rules for parents are but three ..... love, limit, and let them be.”  
Elaine M. Ward**





**Mary Kate Barber** - is our new 5th grade Special Education teacher. She has a Bachelors and Masters in Education majoring in Special Education with a Concentration in English from the University of Connecticut.



**Chis Beaver** - is our new Health teacher. He has a Bachelors in Physical Education and Human Performance with cross endorsement in Health Education from Central Connecticut State University. He is currently the Brookfield High School Assistant Lacrosse Coach.



**Adam Figueiredo** is our new 6th grade Social Studies teacher. He has a Bachelors in Education with a Concentration in Social Studies from SUNY-Oneonta and is currently working on a Masters of Education in Special Education at Pace University.



**Grace Kolba** is our new 5<sup>th</sup> grade Literacy teacher. She has a Bachelors in Childhood Education with a Concentration in Social Studies and Minor in Educational Psychology from SUNY-Oneonta and a Masters of Professional Studies in Special Education (1 – 6) & Literacy.

## More New Staff Members at WMS for the 2017/2018 School Year!



**Maria Miceli** is a new ABA paraprofessional in our ELC (Exceptional Learning Center) classroom. She comes to us from Ability Beyond in Bethel where she worked as a Life Skills Specialist.



**Diana Muller** is one of our new 6th grade Literacy teacher. She has a Bachelors in Psychology and a Minor in Education from Merrimack College and a Masters in Education from the University of Bridgeport. She has 10 years of experience working in an elementary school in Stamford and was a WMS permanent building sub at WMS last year.



**Corilyn Rafferty** is our new 8th grade Special Education teacher. She has a Bachelors in Psychology from Quinnipiac University and Masters of Arts in Teaching, Special Education from Fairfield University. She brings four years of experience as a Special Education teacher in New Milford and Shelton.



**Christina Salvestrini** is our new grade 5-7 Special Education Department Chair. She holds a Bachelors and Master in Special Education from Southern Connecticut State University and an Education Administrators Certificate from University of Connecticut. She has nine years of teaching experience and recently worked as an Executive Director at Western Connecticut Association for Human Rights.



**Marisa Schommer** is one of our new 6th grade Literacy teacher. She has a Bachelors in Elementary Education and Minor in Middle Level Communication Arts & Letters from Winona State University and a Masters in Education in Learning Design and Technology from St. Mary's University of Minnesota. She has four years of teaching experience in 7th/8th Grade Literacy in Minnesota.



**Will Smith** is our new 6th grade Science teacher. He has a Bachelors of Arts in Social Science from Western Connecticut State University and a Masters in Elementary Education from the University of Bridgeport. He was a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for four years at Sprague School in Waterbury.



**Sophia Symon** is our new 7th grade Special Education teacher. She has a Bachelors in Special Education with a Concentration in Mathematics and a Masters in Education in Psychology from the University of Connecticut.



**Janine Torpey** - is our new school psychologist. She has a B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Education and Sociology from Villanova University and a M.A. and Certificate of Advanced Study from Fairfield University. She has four years of experience as a middle school psychologist in Westport.



**Joe Walsh** is our new 8th grade Math teacher. He has a Bachelors in Finance from DePaul University and a Masters in Education from the University of Illinois. He brings 11 years of math teaching experience in Chicago and most recently in New Haven.



**Bonnie Voegeli** is new to WMS working as the 8th grade Special Education Department Chair. She has worked at Brookfield High School as the School Psychologist and is now the Special Education Department Chair at WMS and Brookfield High School.



## Meet our Permanent Building Subs



**Patricia Lynch** - has been a long term substitute at WMS in Health and 6th Grade Science. She has a Bachelors of Science in Health from Western CT State University.



**Kara Glezer** completed her student teaching at Hillcrest Middle School in Trumbull. She has a Bachelors of Science in Animal Science and Minor in Education from UMASS and a Masters in teaching from Sacred Heart. She also works at The Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk.



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- ♦ **September 25th - 8th Grade Open House - 6:30 p.m.**
- ♦ **October 3rd - PTO Meeting in Faculty Room - 6 p.m.**
- ♦ **October 4th - BOE Meeting at BHS 7:00 p.m.**
- ♦ **October 6th - Professional Development Day - no school for students**
- ♦ **October 9th - Columbus Day -no school for students**
- ♦ **October 13th - WMS Picture Retake Day**
- ♦ **October 16th - Parent Assessment Meeting at WMS - 9:00 a.m. and again at 6:30 p.m.**
- ♦ **October 26th - WMS Walkathon**



**Update information**  
**on Public Portal**

**Please make sure that you remember to update the public portal with any new information or changes that you have. Ex. new cell phone #, email, emergency contact names #s, etc.**

**Follow WMS on Twitter  
and Instagram  
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**WOW! WMS READS!!**

**Our students have checked out 1,906 books in the first 3 weeks from our WMS Library Media Center**



before you speak  
**THINK**

- T** ~ is it true?
- H** ~ is it helpful?
- I** ~ is it inspiring?
- N** ~ is it necessary?
- K** ~ is it kind?

**Want to make a connection with your child? Take some time to ask about the day, friends, what he/she is learning, or just take some time and read with him/her. It will make a difference.**