

# Unified Arts

At **Whisconier Middle School** we look to provide our students with a well-rounded educational experience. One aspect of that experience is participation in our Unified Arts and Health programs. We are very fortunate at WMS to have such a diversified curriculum and array of choices which allows our students, regardless of interest and background, the opportunity to explore and learn about their world. Let's check out what is going on in your child's UNAH classes.

## **Art - Ms. Agati**

Whisconier Artists have created some beautiful pieces of art work this year. **Fifth grade students** have been reviewing the elements of art. They have created wonderful bird drawings using oil pastels. They have also created watercolors by observing leaves or pine cones and recreating what they perceive.



**Sixth grade students** have explored painting with ink and with their knowledge of line, recreated trees that expand outside a watercolor wash. They now are up-cycling old directories to create compositions that not only depict a word but a subject they are greatly interested in. **Seventh grade students** have impressively been working on graphite drawings. They now are preparing to review what they know about color and expand on that knowledge in order to paint on the canvas in which they have already depicted a landscape. Our **eighth grade students** have created acrylic paintings of animals that capture the realism of the animal. They learned how to really perceive highlights and shadows and used that knowledge to create their white on black acrylic animal paintings. They also have created oil pastel drawings that show the techniques they have worked on throughout their rotation in art. Amazing work WMS artists!



## Health - Mrs. Norton and Mrs. Thompson

WMS students are always learning something new and practicing skills to keep them safe while they are in Health class. The focus in our Health lessons is about making smart decisions regarding their health and the health of others both now and in the future. Currently, some classes are focusing on learning about substance abuse, the various effects drugs can have on the body and ways to refuse peer pressure. Other classes are learning about how their bodies work and how to keep them healthy.

**5<sup>th</sup> grade students** are creating and performing Refusal Skills Skits. In these lessons, students learned various ways to say no to doing things that they don't want to do. They also learned healthy alternatives and how to persuade others to make healthy choices.



**6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students** are at different stations wearing DWEye Goggles at various Blood Alcohol Concentration Levels. These lessons focus on the effects of alcohol on the body and allows for students to truly understand why driving under the influence is so dangerous!



**8<sup>th</sup> grade students** are working at various stations to understand how alcohol affects vision and the ability to perform simple tasks. Another student is working at the “Fatal Reaction” station which teaches students about the importance of reaction time and how easily it can be impacted.



## Music - Mrs. Grace, Ms. Vogel and Mr. Robinson

### Music with Mrs. Grace

In **5<sup>th</sup> grade** General Music, students use composition and world drumming to expand their knowledge of rhythm and musical elements. Students also map a variety of songs to teach form, dynamics and emotion in music.



In **7<sup>th</sup> grade** General Music, students apply their knowledge of note reading and composition using Garage Band with iPads. This initiative allows students to experiment with the different elements of composition as well as learn how to master the Garage Band program.



### Music with Ms. Vogel

Ms. Vogel teaches keyboard class at WMS. Students read music notes on the staff and play songs on the keyboard in various hand positions.

Grade 5- Beginner keyboard class - C Position

Grade 6- Intermediate keyboard class - Middle C Position and G Position

Grade 7- Advanced keyboard class - Sharps, Flats, Naturals



## Music With Mr. Robinson



Students taking the **8th Grade** Beginning Guitar elective spent the first trimester learning how to play open chords. They also studied how to read chord charts and tablature notation so that they can tackle some of their favorite songs. In class, the students learned to play “Ho Hey” by the Lumineers, “Locked Away” by R City/Adam Levine, “Wagon Wheel” by Darius Rucker, “Star Spangled Banner,” and many others!

## Performing Arts - Mr. Waron

This year’s Performing Arts class has taken a turn towards student autonomy and personal responsibility yielding some unique examples of creativity and collaboration. Many of our projects include a high level of student choice while maintaining enough structure that students have creative freedom while being given the tools to succeed. With example pieces, negotiated timelines, detailed project outlines and the freedom to explore and create, students are developing some interesting work in the following areas:



**8th graders** have been focusing on the basic of film making with units in photography, cinematography, film critiques and costume/set design. Additionally, we explore Shakespearean style language and re-enforce performance skills established in previous years.

**6th and 7th graders** have been exploring Lewis Carroll's nonsense poem, "Jabberwocky", through staged readings, puppetry and animations. Students also explore performance skills such as pantomime and delve into the origins of western theater in our Ancient Greece unit.



**5th graders** are establishing basic performance techniques such as clarity of speech, confidence and stage presence through a variety of games and exercises while also developing audience skills such as active and critical listening, efforts of stillness and peer-to-peer feedback.

## Physical Education

### Mr. Coloneri, Ms. Macchiaverna, and Ms. O'Doherty

Students in **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade** Physical Education classes are exploring the difference between aerobic and anaerobic exercise and how their heart rate is important to monitor during fitness activities. Student's knowledge and understanding of these fitness concepts will be assessed in a written cognitive test in late winter/early spring.

Students in **5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade** Physical Education classes are being recognized for their display of "good sportsmanship" during class activities. A deserving student is selected from each class during each rotation, awarded a certificate and recognized on the PE Wall of Fame.



Selected **8<sup>th</sup> grade students** have been doing a phenomenal job assisting our special needs students in the Adaptive Physical Education class two days a week. These eighth graders work one on one with the special needs students in developing their gross motor skills and fitness level through a variety of interactive tasks and games. A strong bond has developed among and between these students.



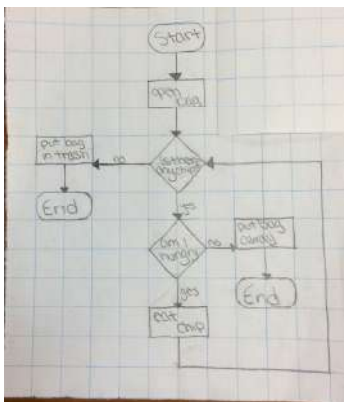


## 21st Century Skills - Mrs. Crean

The **6th and 7th graders** just finished discussing phishing scams and viruses. They even wrote their own phishing emails (only to me!). If they can incorporate the features of a phishing scan they can recognize one when they see it. Students often come into class and show me new suspicious texts or emails they have received. They have been taught to delete anything that looks untrustworthy. Hopefully they came home and asked how you were protecting your computer and private information from hackers. We have started a unit on effective keyword searching so that they can save time and find more reliable sites to use for their research.

The **8th grade** is working on learning coding skills. They first spent some time exploring the programming language Scratch which is based on block instructions. It was developed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and is used extensively by schools at all levels. They are now ready to embark on a more extensive project. In order to prepare, they were introduced to the concept of flowcharting.

Their favorite activity was to flowchart the process of eating a bag of chips. After miming the actions, and making some corrections, they got to try it out with a bag of chips, cookies or fruit snacks! It was a good time, and the students learned some valuable lessons. Below is a picture of one of the flowcharts and students going through their “programs.”

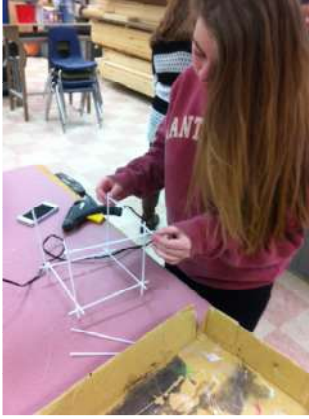


Just as we did last December, we participated, with millions of schools around the world, in the Hour of Code. The students loved it! Code.org, sponsor of the Hour of Code has taken it as their mission to encourage schools to offer more computer science in school so students can get exposed to it before college. With some programming background, students can use their skills to go from consuming apps on their phones to creating some! Check out code.org for tutorials and puzzles for students to enjoy and hone their skills. Another site that provides free lessons on computer coding online is Khan Academy.

Please consider following me on **Twitter at @SueCrean** or on **Instagram at @wms\_Imc** to get the latest information from the Library Media Center and on topics related to social media, and technology use (like protecting yourself from viruses).

## Technical Education - Mr. Futterleib

Tech Ed. is an activity based course where students use their creativity and skills to solve problems and create projects.



**8th grade classes** have completed a unit in Technical Drawing and Sketching and have begun working in our wood tech lab. They are beginning to work on their skate boards and tool boxes and at the same time, they are putting various Math and Science principles to practical real-life application.



**6th and 7th graders** are designing and building CO<sub>2</sub> powered dragsters and the races have begun.

**5th graders** have completed an egg drop design project, an initial plaque and are starting work on a Road Runner Trap Contest.

## **Whisconier Middle School 2016**

### **Unified Arts Program - UNAH**

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