

Welcome to Waconia Middle School



You will see...“WMS is Awesome!”

We have an amazing community that truly supports and values children and education.

Our students are kind, caring, compassionate, driven to explore and find success.

Our staff puts the needs of our students at the front of decision making.

Our staff is highly educated, experienced and dedicated.

Our students perform very well academically and seek to be challenged.

Our children will leave this school well prepared for high school.

Expected Middle School Changes

Identity Crisis- Who am I? What makes me unique? Who do I fit in with?

Ups and downs and changes of social needs and social acceptance.

Frontal lobe development- What is Empathy? What were they thinking?

The need for adults that listen but let them develop solutions

Unconditional love and support. Mistakes are part of the learning process.

Challenging the expectations- What will happen if I don't do my classwork?

Empowering the students to take action- KINDNESS core value.

WMS Core Values (See Handout)

- ★ **Respect**
- ★ **Responsibility**
- ★ **Integrity**
- ★ **Kindness**

Student Recognition Programs

- Character Counts- Students are “caught” and recognized for going above and beyond in displaying WMS Core Values of Respect, Responsibility, Integrity and Kindness.
- Academic Honor Rolls at the end of each Quarter- Posted on site and in the Patriot
 - Honor Roll 1- GPA range 3.665-4.0
 - Honor Roll 2- GPA Range 3.0-3.664
- At WMS, we focus on and value a growth mindset and working to improve each and every day!

Bullying and Student Misconduct (See Handout)

- When student misconduct is witnessed it must be reported verbally or electronically to WMS staff. WMS staff and administration will intervene and investigate to determine if the conduct was bullying, harassment, student misconduct, or a student conflict. Not all student misconduct is bullying.
- “Bullying” is objectively offensive, intimidating, threatening, abusive or harmful conduct directed by a student toward one or more students: when either (1) there is a real or perceived imbalance of power between those involved and the conduct reoccurs or forms a pattern; or, (2) the conduct materially and substantially interferes with the student’s educational opportunities, performance, or ability to participate in school functions, activities or programs. ----MN Dept. of Ed
- Actions taken will aim to correct and work to prevent negative behavior from recurring, including protecting and supporting both the student(s) subjected to the behaviors and the student(s) engaging in the behaviors.

Our School Day...



School Safety is our Daily Priority

- Careful and well planned supervision
- All staff wear an ID badge
- Check-in for visitors with secure entrance
- Student accountability
- Security cameras and security staff
- Emergency preparedness training for staff
- Regular safety drills (fire, lockdown & severe weather)

Transportation To and From School

- Students are supervised at in the main commons at breakfast and in the gym beginning at 7:15 AM. Students should not arrive at school before 7:15.
- Parent drop-off and pick-up is clearly outlined for safety and ease. Take Highway 5 if you are going to WHS from the WMS parking lot.
- Students are encouraged to ride the bus to and from school using Koch Transportation.
- Students must be involved in a supervised activity if they are staying after school.

Office, Nurse and Attendance Procedures (See Handout)

- Student Absence or Late Arrival:
 - Use the Attendance Line, 952-442-0660 for all absences. Leave your child's name, grade, and reason for absence.
- Student Pick-up During the Day:
 - Call the attendance line or send a note with your child stating reason and time you will pick up.
 - Enter the main entrance of school and sign your child out at the main office.
- My child forgot something at home:
 - Drop off item in the main office. It will be placed on the shelves in the office with their name and they will pick it up between classes or after school.

Middle School is their time to EXPLORE!

(See

Handout)

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, French, Spanish, Physical Education, Health, Art, Family and Consumer Science, Industrial Technology, STEM, Robotics, Technology, Band, Choir, Drama, Dance, Gymnastics, Football, Swimming, Cross Country, Track and Field, Wrestling, Play Cast and Crew, Musical Cast and Crew, Show Choir, Jazz Bands, Percussion Ensembles, WEB Leaders, Student Council, Edible Garden Green Team, Media and Technology Clubs, Game Clubs, Student Council, International Club, Art Club, Exploratory Day, etc. etc. etc.

Grade Level Educational Field Trips:

6th Grade: Long Lake, Physics Circus, Capitol Tour, Camp Eden Wood

7th Grade: Courage Retreat, Guthrie Theater, MN Arboretum, MOA

8th Grade: Fall Canoe Trip, Skiing, Festival of Nations, Valleyfair

WMS Daily Schedule 8:05-3:05

- Each grade has a 6 period day plus CONNECT (See Handout)
 - 3 Core Classes:
 - English/Language Arts (Enriched option in 7th/8th)
 - Math (placed)
 - Social Studies/Science (Semester length classes)
 - 3 Encore Classes:
 - A Combination of the following classes:
 - Art, Family and Consumer Science, Industrial Technology, Computer, Climatology, Physical Education, Health, Spanish, French, Band, Choir, General Music (6th) and Prescribed Learning Period(PLP).

CONNECT- New in 2019-20

25 daily minutes of CONNECTing with...

- Their Advisor
 - Dedicated Adult Mentor, Executive Functioning (plan of action), Additional Academic Monitoring, Goal Setting and Monitoring
- Themselves
 - Social Emotional Learning- 2nd Step Curriculum unique to each grade level
- The Community
 - Digital Citizenship, Community Service Projects, Core Value Instruction, Behavior Expectations
- Peers
 - Spirit Weeks, Competitions (i.e. Geography Bee), Where Everyone Belongs (WEB)

Education and Support for All Learners- PLP (Prescribed Learning Period)

- Special Education Services
- Math and Reading Remediation
- Enrichment Opportunities
- Speech and Language Services
- English Language Learners
- Gifted and Talented Education
- School Counselor Groups

Electronic Devices

- Cell Phone Expectations During the School Day
 - Cell phones should not be in use or visible during the school day without staff permission
 - 1st Infraction- Warning, 2nd Infraction- Parent Pick-up, 3rd Infraction- Parent Pick-up and Detention or ISS for insubordination
- One to One Personal Devices carrying cases should be designed for the device. We do not allow backpacks during the school day but cases for devices are allowed.
 - Keep them charged and locked in lockers when not in use

**It is the PEOPLE inside that make a school
GREAT!**



Waconia Middle School Administration



Shane Clausen

Principal

sclausen@isd110.org



Keith Baune

Assistant Principal

kbaune@isd110.org



Wendy Grundhofer

WMS Activities Director

wgrundhofer@isd110.org



Paul Tordoff

Special Education Director

ptordoff@isd110.org

Office and Student Support Staff



Mrs. Ostlie
Administrative
Assistant to the
Principal



Mrs. Hasse
Activities,
Attendance, &
Student Services



Mrs. Olson
Attendance &
Main Office
Reception
(Monday and
Tuesday)



Mrs. Lyman
Attendance &
Main Office
Reception
(Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday)



Mrs. Anderson
School Nurse

Student Support Staff



Mrs. Deren
School Counselor
7th/8th Grade



Mrs. Henslin
School Counselor
6th/7th Grade



Mrs. Bergjord
School Social Worker



Mrs. Meyer
Reading Specialist



Mrs. Leen
ASD Teacher

6th Grade PURPLE Team



Mrs. Grundhofer
Math



Ms. Monson
Language Arts



Mrs. Ohm
Science &
Social Studies



Mr. Bjorlin
Math



Mrs. Johnson
Language Arts



Ms. Treffry
Math/Lang. Arts



Mrs. Jahnke
Science &
Social Studies

6th Grade GOLD Team



Mrs. Bakken
Math



Mr. Benham
Science &
Social Studies



Mrs. Deodhar
Math/ Language
Arts



Mrs. Solheim
Language Arts



Mr. Fleck
Science &
Social Studies/
Math

6th Grade Items/Events to be Aware of...



Where Everyone Belongs- WEB Program (See Handout)

WEB is a yearlong transition program with four components that contribute to program success:

- **Middle School WEB Kick Off Event** - 8th Grade WEB Leaders and 6th graders start building the mentor relationship and receive information about how to be successful in middle school. Tuesday, August 20, 2018 8:00-12:00 PM.
- **Academic Follow Ups** - 8th Grade WEB Leaders support 6th/7th grade academic success and character development through classroom visits
- **Social Follow Ups** - WEB Leaders and 6th/7th graders connect outside the classroom at social events to increase student engagement and promote positive school climate
- **Leader Initiated Contacts** - WEB Leaders connect with their 6th graders on a more individual basis
- **Advisors**- Mrs. Henslin phenslin@isd110.org and Mr. Jones ejones@isd110.org

LINK: <http://www.boomerangproject.com/web/what-web>



Long Lake Conservation Center Palisade, MN

Overnight Environmental Learning Experience- A Waconia tradition for over 30 years!

6th Gold Team Oct 7-9

6th Purple Team Oct 9-11

More information will be available from your child's homeroom teacher at the start of school.

LLCC Website: www.longlakeecc.org

Family Cost: \$155.00 per student

It Takes a Village...



Parent Involvement at WMS

- PTO- Helping as available
 - Complete and submit a volunteer form.
 - Dads- Wednesday morning gym time 7:15-7:55.
- Consistent monitoring of academic achievement- Parent Portal
- Communication and collaborative problem solving with WMS Staff
- Encouraging student responsibility and problem solving
- Consistent reading practice outside of school
- Monitoring healthy habits with social media
- Be observant and ask your child questions
- Attending parent teacher conferences and school events

Grading 4 Learning at WMS (See Handout)

Students will receive an Academic Grade and Process Grades. We believe that grading and reporting should reflect student content mastery, as well as *how* they arrived to this level of performance. Academic Grades will measure the level of content mastery. Process Grades will measure student personal management in three areas: student preparedness, engagement, and work completion and quality.

WMS Guidelines for Weighting Academic Grades

Summative (Greater than or equal to 60%)

The focus on these items will be an assessment of content knowledge aligned to standards.

- Unit Assessments, including Mid-Unit Assessments (quizzes/tests) for long units
- Major Performance Tasks, including products, performances, and projects (i.e. essays, artwork, visual representations, models, multimedia, oral presentations, lab reports, live or recorded performances)

Formative (Less than or equal to 40%)

The focus of these items will provide practice for learning. Note that not all practice will be scored or reported.

- Independent practice on daily work (daily assignments and practice), including online programs that are student-driven and managed
- Collaborative group tasks that receive a shared grade
- Brief progress checks used to inform instruction (i.e. short quizzes, reviews, warm ups, cool downs)

Home-School Communication

- Waconia Middle School Website
- E-mail/Phone Call
- Schoology
 - Facebook for Schools
 - Student to Teacher and Teacher to Student Communication
- Infinite Campus Parent Portal
 - Academic Progress
- WMS Weekly every Friday
 - Highlights of the week and Upcoming Events
 - Dependable resource for information
- All correspondence, including report cards, is electronic.

Parent-Teacher Conferences @ Mid-Quarters

(See Student Calendar)

- **1st Quarter: August 26, 2019- October 29, 2019**
 - Thursday, September 26, 2019- Arena Style Conferences 3:45-7:45 PM
 - Monday, September 30, 2019- Arena Style Conferences 3:45-7:45 PM
- **2nd Quarter: October 30, 2019- January 15, 2020**
 - Thursday, December 12, 2019- Arena Style Conferences 3:45-7:45 PM
- **3rd Quarter: January 16, 2020- March 27, 2020**
 - Thursday, February 20, 2020- Arena Style Conferences 3:45-7:45 PM
 - Monday, February 24, 2020- Arena Style Conferences 3:45-7:45 PM
- **4th Quarter: March 30, 2020- May 28, 2020**
 - Individual parent/teacher conferences scheduled as needed.

**Conferences are available anytime throughout the year by request*

New Beginnings.....



WMS Building Features

- Auditorium Seating for 400
- 3 Station Gym with spectator seating
- Amazing Science spaces
- MS Weight Room/ Wrestling Room/ Climbing Room
- Big lunchroom and outdoor recess areas
- Close proximity to WHS Pool, Waconia Ice Arena, Fields, Tennis Courts
- Dedicated Grade Level Spaces
- Amazing IT, FACS, Art and Music spaces

Thank you for learning more about the fun adventure in front of us at WMS! Staff are available to answer questions.

