

WEST HOLMES MIDDLE SCHOOL

**MARCH/APRIL/
MAY 2025**

Jeff Woods, Principal

Nic Fioritto, Asst., Principal

Madison Simon, Guidance

From the Desk of Mr. Woods:

Parents and students:

We have made it through $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year. We have one 9 weeks left. I want to thank all students, parents and staff for your hard work. The number of hours parents have worked with students and time spent outside of the classroom by our staff are very impressive. Keep up the hard work through the last 9 weeks. A side note to students that have low or missing grades. Put your best foot forward this last 9 weeks. Students that have failed a number of classes run the risk of being held back at the end of the year. Grades are like pay checks. It is hard to validate a payment for work not completed. Same goes for grades. Missing homework and low-test scores as well as poor attendance make it tough to pass students to the next grade level.

8th grade will be traveling back to Washington D.C. and Gettysburg April 23rd - 25th. Parents, do not miss parent meeting that will help you and your student plan for this trip. Parent meeting will be April 15th at 6:00 in Little Theater.

Our 6th grade will be heading back to Heartland in Morango on April 23rd thru April 25th. All 6th graders are encouraged to attend. This will be a great chance for students to get outdoors and at the same time continue their education. Parent meeting will be April 15th at 7:00 in Little Theater.

State Testing this year will be administered on the following Dates:

April 8th & April 9th Language Art Grades 6-8

April 15th - 16th Math Grades 6-8

April 30th Science Grade 8 part 1

May 1st Science Grade 8 part 2

Our year will end with exams on May 20th and 21st. Our academic awards will be passed out the morning of the May 22nd and talent show and fun day will be May 23rd.

Lastly, I would like to remind parents and students that your attendance at school is critical to the future of your education. Mr. Fioritto has been doing an extraordinary amount of attendance plans for students missing too many days.

Have a great end of the year and put forth your best EFFORT!

Sincerely,

Jeff Woods, PRINCIPAL



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- ◆ MARCH 10TH - D.C. TRIP/6TH GRADE CAMP FEES MUST BE PAID IN FULL
- ◆ MARCH 13TH - LITERACY NIGHT
- ◆ MARCH 19TH - PTP DEADLINE
- ◆ MARCH 20TH - BAND CONCERT
- ◆ MARCH 21ST - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS - STAFF INSERVICE
- ◆ MARCH 24TH THRU 28TH - SPRING BREAK
- ◆ APRIL 4TH - GRADE CARDS HOME
- ◆ APRIL 11TH - FINE ARTS FESTIVAL @ HIGH SCHOOL
- ◆ APRIL 15TH - D.C. PARENT MTG MANDATORY @ 6 PM
- ◆ APRIL 15TH - 6TH GRADE CAMP MANDATORY PARENT MTG @ 7 PM @ WHMS THEATER
- ◆ APRIL 18TH - NO SCHOOL - CONFERENCE COMP DAY
- ◆ APRIL 21ST - NO SCHOOL
- ◆ APRIL 23RD - 25TH - D.C. TRIP
- ◆ APRIL 23RD - 25TH - 6TH GRADE CAMP
- ◆ MAY 9TH - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS - STAFF INSERVICE
- ◆ MAY 13TH - CHOIR CONCERT
- ◆ MAY 20TH - LA/HISTORY EXAMS
- ◆ MAY 21ST - MATH/SCIENCE EXAMS
- ◆ MAY 22ND - HONORS ASSEMBLY
- ◆ MAY 23RD - TALENT SHOW
- ◆ MAY 23RD LAST DAY OF SCHOOL. SUMMER BEGINS!!

WEST HOLMES MIDDLE SCHOOL MAY NEWSLETTER 2025

**WEST HOLMES
8TH GRADE
WASHINGTON D.C.
TRIP IS APRIL 23RD
– 25TH, 2025**

**TOTAL D.C.
BALANCE
MUST BE PAID
BY MARCH
10TH, 2025!!!**

**6TH GRADE
CAMP BALANCE
MUST BE PAID
BY MARCH
10TH, 2025!!!**

Note From Tom Eastep, RN

**All incoming 7th
grade students are
required to get a
1 dose booster of
either Tdap or Td
and a
Meningococcal
vaccine before
starting
the 2025-2026
school year.**

In the last quarter, **Mrs. Lance's 7th grade Language Arts** classes will be making final preparations for the transition to 8th grade. We will focus on silent reading comprehension strategies and more sophisticated writing skills. We will use various short stories, fairy tales, poetry, and nonfiction selections to accomplish these goals. Readers Theater scripts will be used to improve fluency and expression in reading. We will also be examining practice test questions to review testing format and specific vocabulary in preparation for the upcoming state tests.

Mr. Dombady's 7th grade math are continuing our probability unit before wrapping up with our final unit on rational numbers. After Spring Break, we will begin reviewing for the state test.

Mr. Dombady's Algebra will continue with our polynomials and quadratic equations units from now until Spring Break. After break, we will be using graphing calculators to solve quadratic functions. Students do not need to purchase a graphing calculator.

Mr. Wengerd's 8th grade reading class is currently reading *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. We will finish the year with a few other novels, including *Milkweed* and *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*.

Mr. Wengerd's 8th grade writing class is working on a Local History play currently. We will focus on Argumentative Writing prior to the state test.

During March and April, **Mrs. Doty's 7th grade accelerated math** students will continue working with geometry, including surface area and volume, in the upcoming weeks. We will then work with rational number operations before beginning to review for this year's State Test. Students can use Success Maker to help review concepts from throughout the year.

Mrs. Blankenship's 6th Grade Science is finishing up their Earth Science unit about Rocks, Minerals, Soil, and the Rock Cycle. We will finish the year learning about Physical Science topics such as Potential and Kinetic Energy while creating roller coasters.

Mrs. Blankenship's 8th Grade Science is finishing up their Earth Science unit learning about the History of the Earth along with Relative and Absolute Dating. We will finish the year on Life Science learning about Genetics and Heredity.

Mrs. McCluggage and Mrs. Downs: Students are working in their genre of choice in independent reading while we explore fantasy in class as we read *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle. This is a stark contrast to the nonfiction we just finished: *Children of the Dust Bowl* by Jerry Stanley. The contrast of style helps us discuss just how different writing can be. We also explore this contrast in different styles when we write. In writing, we finished writing historical fiction plays which will be used this spring to celebrate the bicentennial year of the formation of Holmes County. Next we will be working on formal argument writing.

Mrs Ogi's 7th graders are working with converting fractions, decimals and percents, as well as the percent proportion.

Mrs Ogi's 6th graders are adding and subtracting fractions with common denominators and without.

Mrs. Lowe's, Bible's and Doty's 6th grade math classes -Students are just finishing up percentages. Students worked on converting percents into decimals and fractions along with finding the percent of a number. Our next topic will cover geometry. We will be finding area, surface area, and volume of shapes. Students should be completing at least 60 minutes of Success Maker each week. This is the intervention piece of our new curriculum to assist in the spiral of previous math material.

In **Mrs. Rohr's Art** classes 6th graders will be creating shape collages. 7th graders will be painting a color wheel. 8th graders will be building clay boxes.

Mrs. Rennecker and Mrs. Snyder are finishing up the novel *The Giver* by Louis Lowry. We have been working on vocabulary and examining dialogue that propels the action of the plot, and different types of Irony in the story. When we finish this novel we will be working on tall tales and myths as we are also preparing for the state test. The students have been polishing up their writing abilities by using ACES and writing essays. They should be reading 20 minutes a night to help them reach their AR goal. This year is flying by and we are all working hard to get your child geared up for high school.

Mrs. Acker's Health – 6th graders will begin their final rotation. We will look at Health information, study the parts and functions of the skin, eye, ear, hair, nails and teeth. Our students will also participate in the Anti-Virus program for character development. 7th graders will study units including, tobacco information, alcohol risk behaviors and understand various drug categories and effects. We will finish with personal and weather safety. 8th graders will study nutrition, eating disorders, memorize the basic bones and joints in the skeleton and the Endocrine system, including the male and female reproductive system.

Mr. Ogi's 8th grade history class will be covering the first presidents of the United States over the next few couple months before finishing the year with the Civil War.

Mr. Ogi's 7th grade history class will be covering the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

Ms. Lang's 6th Grade Science classes will be reviewing physical, Earth, and life science concepts. Holmes County Soil and Water as well as Holmes Wayne Electric will be sharing important information as well as guest parent presenters McConville, Morehouse, and Schafer.

Parents:

We have completed $\frac{3}{4}$ of the school year without any major issues, but I want to address a few areas before they become major issues. We cannot combat these issues alone. It is important that we all be on the same page. The first issue is social media. The policy at the middle school is that all cell phones stay turned off and in their locker during the day. Majority of the social media issues are occurring outside of school but we are seeing many of these problems carry over into the middle school. If the issue is bad enough I encourage the parent to save what was sent and file a report with law enforcement. Please speak with your child about being responsible with what they post, send and search. If they can't be responsible take their phone away until they can learn to be responsible with it. We cannot be the social media police and as parents you are responsible for that phone and the content that is on it since it is your name on the phone contract.

The second item on the list is the dress code. As the weather gets warmer the outfits tend to get shorter. Please monitor your son or daughters' wardrobe and make sure they are appropriately dressed before they leave the house. Shirts should have sleeves and cover the entire stomach. Shorts and dresses should not be inappropriately revealing.

Finally, we need the students to finish strong with class work and good behavior. Please continue to remind your child that being nice and saying kind words never goes out of style. We have almost 400 students here in the middle school, be courteous and polite to each other. We don't expect everyone to like everyone, but they can still be respectful to each other. Our middle school is a much nicer place to be when everyone is kind to each other.

Nic Fioritto
Assistant Principal

SPELLING BEE NEWS.....

Dominic Cicconetti and Knox VanSickle participated in the **Holmes County Spelling Bee** on February 19th at Hiland High School. Dominic won the bee and Knox was the runner up! The boys battled through several rounds of a spelldown before Dominic won in the 28th round, correctly spelling "auburn" for the crown! I cannot remember a spelling bee where two spellers from the same school building finished in first and second place! Well done boys, Knights Nation is proud of you! In other spelling bee news, our school bee winner, Silas Fritz, will compete in the Regional Spelling Bee, held in Canton at Stark State College on March 1. Best of luck to Silas. The winner of the regional bee qualifies for the National Spelling Bee this summer in Washington DC.



Please check the West Holmes Website for updated forms and 2025-2026 school supply list soon!!

www.westholmes.org

Ski Club

As we complete our 6th and final visit to Snow Trails as a group, please remember all passes can continue to be used until Snow Trails closes for the season! Any questions please contact Mrs. Doty.

Parent Teacher Conference Meals

A huge Thank you goes out to the parents who provided meals to the teachers on Conference nights!! As usual, it was awesome!

8TH GRADE PARENTS.....

THERE IS A MANDATORY MEETING FOR THE 8TH GRADE WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP ON APRIL 15th, 2025 AT 6:00 PM IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL THEATER.

BALANCE MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY MARCH 10TH, 2025!!!

**NO LUNCH CHARGES
AFTER MAY 1ST, 2025**

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
IS MAY 23RD, 2025**



Middle School Wrestling -

The following 8th graders placed in the top 6 at OAC district and will compete in March at the OAC State Wrestling tournament in Youngstown:

90 lb - Rowand Mathie

114 lb - Colton Garver

154 lb - Logan Leyda

164 lb - Silas Baker

176 lb - Finn McClintock

8TH GRADE PARENTS.....

THERE IS A MANDATORY MEETING FOR THE 6TH GRADE OUTDOOR EDUCATION TRIP ON APRIL 15th, 2025 AT 7:00 PM IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL THEATER.

BALANCE MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY MARCH 10TH, 2025!!!

WHMS HONORS ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD ON MAY 22ND AT 7:30 AM IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM. WATCH FOR YOUR INVITATION IN THE MAIL!

KNIGHTS COUNCIL.....

Knights Council will be sponsoring a Glow Dance, Thursday, March 20th. The event will take place during the last two hours of school. Students will have the opportunity to "purchase" a ticket prior to the event. The cost of a ticket is three Knight Pride Bucks. Students are encouraged to wear neon or white colors. The concession stand will be opened and glow in the dark necklaces can be purchased as well. A price list will be sent home prior to the event.

Artist of The Month

February Artists of the Month are 8th grader Emily Ogi, 7th grader Trinity Clark and 6th grader Cruz Whitman. December Artists are 8th grader Sophie Arnold, 7th grader Kinley Goans, and 6th grader Trinidee Mays. Artists of the Month are chosen based on their artwork created in class. Artwork is displayed outside the art room and on the WHMS website. Students are given a certificate and art supplies.
<https://sites.google.com/westholmes.org/msartgallery/home>

Track Information

7th and 8th grade track will start on Wednesday, March 5th. Track athletes will want to make sure to bring tennis shoes, warm clothes (hat, gloves, sweatshirts), and a water bottle. Plan to pick up your athlete at the stadium by the concession stand at 4:30. Pay to participate is \$50 and is due March 19th to Mrs. Arnold at the middle school office.

Academic Challenge

The WHMS Academic Challenge team has been working hard for the past month, studying facts and expanding their knowledge base. This year's team includes eighth-grader Una Holasek; seventh-graders Courtney Doering, Madi Hernandez, Joycie Raber, and Annie Snyder; and sixth-graders Dominic Cicconetti, Haden Lint, Mason McKinney, and Julian Morehouse. They scrimmaged Triway at home on February 25, but the Titans took away the win as they outscored our young Knights in all four rounds. Next up will be the Tri-County Jr. Academic Challenge Tournament at Norwayne Middle School on Monday, March 17.

BAND NOTES FROM MR. DEPINET



Spring Band Concert

Our 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade bands are preparing for our spring concert that will be held on March 20, 2025 at 7:00pm in the WHMS gymnasium. All three grade levels have been working extremely hard to prepare this concert so the more in attendance the better!

Our district fine arts festival will be held on Friday, April 11th. There will be numerous performing groups and art projects on display for the public to see and hear. We will have food trucks, concessions, arts and crafts as well as some other activities set up for all to enjoy. We are looking forward to seeing you all in attendance!

CHOIR NOTES FROM MRS. O'BRIEN

The Middle school choirs are working towards our final two performances this year. Each grade will perform at the district Fine Arts Festival in April as well as our Spring Concert in May. We are working on some fun songs and are enjoying singing together.

ART CLUB NEWS.....

The next art club meeting will be March 12th after school until 4:00. Students will be working on a painting project.

Power of the Pen News.....

Six WHMS students competed at the Power of the Pen regional tournament at Kent State University on March 1st, 2025. Seventh Grade Writers Freya Goley, Cheyanne Wilds, Rose Eveland and Eighth Grade Writers Tori Bell, Zaylia Majzer, and Ayla Waltos. The state competition will be held at Ashland University in May.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL IS MAY 23RD, 2025!!!

PARENTS:

With the increasing use of cell phones, we are finding that many of our middle school students are not memorizing their contact information.

Please make sure your child knows:

- Physical and mailing address.
- Emergency contact numbers for both parents/guardians.
- An additional emergency contact number.

Your child needs to be able to contact you or a grandparent in case they do not have access to a charged cell phone loaded with all of their contact numbers.

Thank you for your help!!

Parents:

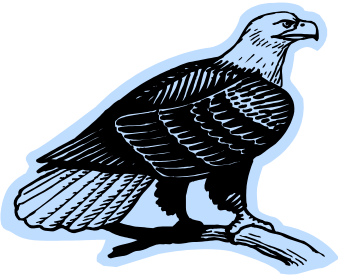
Washington D.C. trip is scheduled for April 23RD – 25TH, 2025. **Your child's balance must be paid in full by March 10th, 2025.** There will be a mandatory parent meeting on April 15th @ 6 pm in MS theater.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Arnold at the Middle School @ 330-674-4761



6TH GRADE PARENTS!!

THERE IS A MANDATORY MEETING FOR 6TH GRADE CAMP ON APRIL 15TH, 2022 AT 7:00 PM IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL THEATER. BALANCE MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY MARCH 10th, 2025!!!



WEST HOLMES MIDDLE SCHOOL
10901 SR 39
MILLERSBURG, OH 44654

Phone:
330-674-4761

• **Fax:**
330-674-2311

WEB SITE ADDRESS:
westholmes.org

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(STRONGER BECAUSE UNITED)



FROM WHMS LIBRARY:

ALL SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOKS DO NEED TO BE RETURNED BY **MAY 13TH** SO THAT YEAR END INVENTORY CAN BE COMPLETED. IF YOUR CHILD HAS LOST OR DAMAGED A BOOK, YOU ARE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR IT. PLEASE MAKE PAYMENTS FOR LOST BOOKS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

YOU MAY PAY CASH, OR BY CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO **WH MEDIA CENTER.**



**Make sure to visit our Middle School
website for important dates and
information. The web address is:
www.westholmes.org**

WHMS YEARBOOKS

2024-2025 yearbooks can be ordered until 3/20/25!!!
Please see the attached order form for more information!!



Eric Jurkovic, Superintendent of Schools
West Holmes Local Board of Education



Joel Yoder

Tina Zickefoose

Hans Ramseyer

Patricia Sage

Andrew Jones