



## West Holmes Middle School

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Mr. Brian Baughman, Principal  
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## September/October 2025

### Dates to Remember – 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr 2025

October 13<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> – Parent/Teacher conferences – 3 pm to 6:45 pm  
October 16<sup>th</sup> – End of 1<sup>st</sup> 9 weeks  
October 16<sup>th</sup> – Picture retakes  
October 17<sup>th</sup> – No School for Students  
October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Literacy Night  
October 24<sup>th</sup> – Grade Cards go home  
Nov 14<sup>th</sup> – Midterms in Progress Book  
Nov 14<sup>th</sup> – Career Center field trip  
Nov 20<sup>th</sup> – Choir Concert – 7 pm  
Nov 26<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving break  
Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – No School – Conf Comp day  
Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> – Pay to Participate Deadline  
Dec 16<sup>th</sup> – Band Concert – 7 pm  
Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> – Christmas Break  
Jan 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> – Christmas Break  
Jan 16<sup>th</sup> – Grade Cards go home  
Jan 19<sup>th</sup> – No School – MLK Day

Eric Jurkovic, Superintendent of Schools

WEST HOLMES LOCAL BOARD OF  
EDUCATION

JOEL YODER      HANS RAMSEYER  
ANDREW JONES    TINA ZICKEFOOSE  
PATRICIA SAGE

## Message from the Principal

Dear Families,



School is off and running and I want to take a moment to share two themes that are guiding our work this year: *growth mindset* and *kindness*.

Middle school is a time of great change, discovery, and challenge. We want our students to understand that mistakes are not setbacks, but opportunities to learn and grow. By encouraging a growth mindset, we want students to see that effort, persistence, and resilience lead to progress—not just in academics, but in every area of life. But like all opportunities, it is our personal responsibility to take advantage of the mistakes we make and better ourselves.

Equally important is how we treat one another. We are working to build a school community where kindness and respect are the foundation of every interaction. When students feel supported and valued, they are more willing to

take risks, push themselves, and help others succeed. We believe that we can achieve more as individuals by building a community of people that support and help each other.

Together, these values—believing in our ability to grow and showing kindness toward others—create the kind of learning environment where every student can thrive. With your help, we will continue to strengthen the sense of community within our school and ensure that all students feel they belong.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and for sharing this journey with us.

Brian Baughman  
West Holmes Middle School  
Principal

**welcome**  
**back to school**

**WHMS 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE  
OUTDOOR EDUCATION  
CAMP  
APRIL 22<sup>nd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**THIS TRIP IS PENDING....MORE  
DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED  
AT A LATER DATE!**

**IF THIS TRIP HAPPENS A  
MANDATORY PARENT  
MEETING WILL BE  
ANNOUNCED AT A LATER  
DATE!**

**BAND NEWS...**

**6th Grade Band**

The sixth grade band students have begun their musical journey as a West Holmes Knight. All students have learned how to put their instruments together and to produce a sound on their instrument. Currently most students are beginning the process of learning how to read music in our band book.



**7th Grade Band**

We are working on playing together as a large group and reviewing things we learned last year. We will soon begin working on music for the December concert.

**8th Grade Band**

The eighth grade band members have been reviewing some of the marching band music we worked on last spring. We are also working on the basics of marching so the group can march the halftime show with the high school band on Youth Night, which is Friday, October 3rd. Two after school practices will be scheduled to help the groups practice together. Information about this event has been sent home. If you have any

questions, please email me at [bdepinet@westholmes.org](mailto:bdepinet@westholmes.org).

**Winter Concert**

Mark your calendars for the middle school music department's winter concert. It is Tuesday, December 16, beginning at 7:00 PM. Also, the spring concert date is Tuesday, March 17.

**Music Boosters**

The West Holmes Music Boosters are a huge asset and benefit to the music program not only here at the middle school, but in every building throughout the district. Please consider becoming an active participant of this vital organization. Meetings are held the second Monday of every month in the high school band room at 7 PM.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS.....

Pay to Participate for winter sports is \$50 and is due before December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025!!! All athletes must have a physical on file in the office before any type of participation.

The West Holmes Athletic department would like to remind everyone to visit the athletic website, [www.knightsnation.org](http://www.knightsnation.org), to obtain athletic news and updates. You are also encouraged to sign up for the text alerts, join us on twitter and like us on Facebook, in order to keep up with all of our athletic information. Click on the KNIGHTSHQ tab for athletic pass information for the 2025-2026 school year and you can also see the team rosters, schedules, as well as booster club information here. Be sure to check it out!

**STUDENTS** are not permitted to stay after school without supervision for sporting events. The only students who are allowed to stay after school are those students who are a member of a club, sport team, or after school tutoring that is scheduled for that evening. Students are

welcome to come back to the game but just not to stay after school.



## Immunization Alert!!!

Parents please note that students entering the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade now need the TDAP booster as well as the Meningococcal vaccine. We require proof of this at schedule pickup. Please keep this in mind as you take your children to other appointments throughout this school year.

## SPELLING BEE NEWS....

The spelling bee is scheduled once again for this winter. More specific information will come home later. Typically a study list comes home around Thanksgiving and a qualifying bee is given in each Language Arts classroom prior to Christmas. The school bee is held in January with our winner advancing to the regional spelling bee in February.

## Career Center Trip

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be making a trip to the Career Center for a tour on November 4<sup>th</sup>. More information will be sent out at a later date.

## News...

Make sure to visit our Middle School website for important dates and information. The web address is: [www.westholmes.org](http://www.westholmes.org)

## West Holmes Emergency Alert System

The alert system will allow parents and students to manage their phone numbers, email accounts, and groups at any time. Each account may contain 6 phone numbers and 5 email addresses.

**It is STRONGLY suggested that only ONE account per household be created and all phone numbers and emails be added to that account.**

**To create an account and subscribe to the alert system, use the following steps:**

- Go to the West Holmes Local Schools web site  
<http://www.westholmes.k12.oh.us>
- On the Home page of the District web site, click on "West Holmes Alert Sign-Up"  
(in yellow at top left)
- The One Call Now login/sign-up page will open.
  - If you have already created an account, you can login and manage your account from here.
- -If you have **NOT** created an account, click on the "Sign Up" button.  
Once you have clicked the "Sign Up" button, you will be asked to enter your name, cell phone number, email address, and a password of your choosing. If you wish to receive text message alerts, you **MUST** check the "Receive Text Messages" box. Once your information is entered, check the "I Accept the Terms of Use" box and

click the "Save" button.

- When you click the "Save" button, a verification email will be sent to the email address you provided. You will need to click the link provided in the email to finish creating/activating your account.
- After verifying your account, login using your email address and password that you created. This will take you to the Self Update Portal page. From this page you may edit your information, add additional phone numbers or email addresses, or add building groups. We have created building groups so you can receive alerts that pertain to the building your student attends as well as District alerts. To add groups to your account, click on the "Search" button.

## **ARTIST OF THE MONTH**

September Artists of the Month are 8th grader Addison Miller, 7th grader Kaytlynn Bartlett and 6th grader Logan Fletcher. 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>

## **ART CLUB NEWS.....**

**The next art club meeting will be November 12th. Students will be working with clay.**

**This is what we will be studying during  
September/October: **

**Mr. Wengerd's 8th Grade ELA**

We just finished The Outsiders, we will be reading The Contender next, and in our writing block we are working on an "Investigative Journalism" unit.

  
**Mrs. Wengerd's 8th graders** are working on multi-step equations.

  
**Mr. Dombrady's PLTW 9-week classes:**

**6th:** Throughout the course, students take on the role of engineering interns to create automated mechanisms. Students collaborate with classmates and learn the importance of their specific roles. Problem solving and teamwork are stressed throughout this class!

**7th:** In this course, students complete a variety of challenges. Students are challenged with sketching and representing 3D objects.

**8th:** Students in this course learn coding through MIT App Inventor.

  
This month **Mrs. Rohr's 6th graders** are shading with pencil and colored pencil. **7th graders** will be painting a color wheel. **8th graders** will be studying portraiture and photography.

  
In **Mrs. Blankenship's 7th Grade Science**, we started the year learning about Lab Safety, Tools, and Equipment. We focused on how to use the tools and equipment properly to make accurate measurements for our future labs and experiments. Currently, we are learning about the difference between Chemical & Physical Changes and Properties so that we can recognize them in the real world. Next, we will be continuing in Physical Science by learning about Atoms, Elements, and the Periodic Table.

  
In class **Mr. Wilcox's class**, we just finished the Introductory unit where we bridge the gap between the ancient history which was covered last year and the rest of World History which we will cover the rest

of the year. Our next unit we will be beginning is the Ancient Greece Unit. Ancient Greece, based on what I have observed from past students, is one of their favorite units, and one of their most challenging. We will begin the unit covering the Trojan War. From there, we will cover Ancient Athenians and the Spartans as well as the wars they had with Persia and each other leading to their downfall at the hands of Alexander the Great. It is one of my favorite times in history to cover and I hope the students this year enjoy it as much as I do.

  
**Mr. Woods' 8th grade American History** classes have been studying the Early Americas and some of the European explorers of the 1500's. We will be learning about early colonization in North America by France, Spain, Britain and the Dutch. We will look at reasons people were leaving their countries and moving to America. We will be studying the causes and effects of the American Revolution as well as some of the great Americans that became our founding fathers.

  
**Mrs. Downs' 6th Grade Science:** Our 6th graders are diving into the fascinating world of geology! We've been studying the three major types of rocks—sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic—by observing real rock samples, noting their textures, colors, and unique features, and learning how each forms through Earth's natural processes. Students are also discovering how these rocks change over time through the rock cycle. As we wrap up our rock investigations, we'll begin exploring minerals, including how scientists identify and classify them using the Mohs Hardness Scale. This hands-on unit allows students to think like geologists, making connections between what they see in everyday life and the science that shapes our planet.

  
**Mrs. Acker's Heath** In Health class I am excited to start a new rotation of students. In 6th grade we will be discussing the characteristics of good friendship/relationships. We will focus on the structures and functions of our skin, teeth, eyes, ears, hair and nails. The Anti-Virus program will be

presented by Leaders Edge. For more information see your child's handout. 7th grade will be focused on Drugs, Tobacco and Alcohol, with an emphasis on the dangers of Vaping and JUULING. The students will learn about personal safety in a variety of situations and Weather safety. The 8th grade students will learn about Nutrition, BMI, and Eating Disorders. This will be followed by learning the function of the Endocrine System which includes the Male and Female Reproductive System. The course will finish up with Sexually Transmitted Disease information and Abstinence information.

  
**Mrs. Bible's 6th Grade Classroom**, we have SURVIVED the first Unit in Math and yes we all struggled our way through LOOONG division but we did it!! We are embarking on Unit 2 where we will learn about integers and rational numbers. We are settling into a routine now with math. We begin each class with a warm up so we keep those math skills fresh. We then jump into the lesson which generally takes about 2 days to complete. We then follow the lesson with a Math XL which is an online math assignment. Students generally have anywhere from 20-30 minutes to complete the assignment in class if it is not completed in class then it is finished up for homework. Our middle school math classrooms also use an online program called SuccessMaker where students work independently at their level in 20 minute sessions. We ask the students to spend 60 minutes per week on SuccessMaker. My students have been doing a great job getting SuccessMaker completed as well as getting those Math XL assignments completed. Please remember to check out Progress Book to see the progress your student is making.

  
**7th grade ELA with Mrs. Chaney, Mrs. Burgett, and Mrs. Hood** will focus on reading short stories and writing a personal narrative. Near the end of October, students read "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe. Grammar will focus on identifying subject and predicate pairs and identifying compound sentences. Also, we will continue to work on Vocabulary Lists 4-8 thru the end of the 1st 9 weeks..

**Mrs. Rennecker's classes** are finishing up the popular novel "The Outsiders" by: S.E. Hinton this week. We have been reviewing the ACES process and getting ready to write a bigger writing assignment that compliments the novel we just finished. My next focus will be a variety of short stories that we will be studying over the next few weeks, so please have a conversation with your child on what they are reading in class. You should also be observing your child reading at home as each 9 weeks they are given an AR goal that they need to meet for class points that go towards their grade. We attend the library every two weeks and they are receiving assistance from myself and the librarian to help them select a book that they will enjoy reading.

Please note that conferences are coming up in October on the 13th, and the 15th, and this is a great night to schedule an appointment to discuss any issues or problems that need to be dealt with before the school year progresses. I hope to see you at conferences, as we are a team in educating your child to become a respectful, hardworking adult that will flourish in society one day.



## **Knights' Council**

Knights Council is finishing up their work in the concession stand for the volleyball season and are busy planning the Fall Knight Pride Dance near the end of October. Sixth Graders will have the opportunity for Knights Council membership within the next few weeks.

### **FROM THE DESK OF MRS. FOX ...**

#### **Students/Parents:**

As we settle into the school year, I want to thank you for your continued partnership in creating a positive and productive learning environment. Your support is essential as we work together to ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive. One of the most important factors in student success is consistent attendance. Please continue to encourage your child to be present and on time each day, as daily engagement directly impacts achievement. We are also excited to highlight our school-wide Knight PRIDE program, which reinforces the values of being Prepared, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, and Effort. Through this initiative, we are helping

students take ownership of their choices while building a strong, respectful school culture. Participation in Knight PRIDE activities and events will be tied to both academic performance and behavior, encouraging students to meet high expectations in order to enjoy these opportunities. These same standards will guide eligibility for school trips later this year. As we approach the end of the 9 weeks, please reflect with your child. How did they do? What can they improve on for our new 9 weeks? Sit down and set some goals with your student on how they can make the second 9 weeks more successful! Together—families, staff, and students—we are building a culture of accountability, kindness, and excellence. I look forward to celebrating our students' many achievements and continuing to nurture a school climate where every learner feels valued and supported.

**Mrs. Fox  
Assistant Principal**

## COMPETITION ROBOTICS

Our first competition of the year is Friday, November 14th at the high school. We will set up Thursday after school and will help run the high school tournament on Saturday. If you are interested in volunteering, please see Mr. Dombrady!

## "Doe vs. ODE"

"Doe vs. Ohio Department of Education" with the statement , "A class action lawsuit was filed against the Department of Education concerning Special Education services in public school districts. This applies primarily to 11 large school districts in Ohio, (West Holmes is **not** one of them), but does apply to all public districts. One of the requirements of the agreement is to post it, and to make it available to parents. You can find the agreement on our district website."

## SCHOOL CLOSINGS & DELAYS

Please listen to one of the following radio or TV stations for information regarding school closings, early dismissals or delays:

WKLM...Millersburg ....95.3 FM  
WNCO ...Ashland ..... 1340 AM  
101.3 FM  
WQKT .....Wooster.....960 AM  
104.5 FM  
WTNS ....Coshocton.....1560 AM  
99.3 FM  
KISS...Loudonville.....107.7 FM  
Cleveland TV Stations.....3, 5 & 8

Log onto [www.westholmes.k12.oh.us](http://www.westholmes.k12.oh.us) and click on "West Holmes Alert Sign-Up" to receive texts about school closings, delay or early releases

**8<sup>th</sup> GRADE  
WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP  
APRIL 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**THIS TRIP IS PENDING....MORE DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE!**

**IF THIS TRIP HAPPENS A  
MANDATORY PARENT  
MEETING WILL BE  
ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE  
AS TRIP IS PENDING  
APPROVAL!!!**

## Choir Notes:

The Middle School choirs are up and running for this school year. We have been working on learning to blend our voices and sing in parts. The choirs will perform the National Anthem and Hail to West Holmes High at the home varsity football game on October 3.

## PARENTS:

**PLEASE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFICE WITH ANY CHANGES TO YOUR ADDRESS and/or ANY NEW PHONE NUMBERS, ETC. THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. ATTENDANCE**

In order to succeed in school, students should be prompt and regular in attendance. However, when it is necessary for a child to miss school, parents must call the school by 9:00 AM the day of the absence. A written note(containing the date of the absence, your child full name and reason for missing school) regarding the absence is to be sent with the child when he or she returns to school.

→ If we do not receive a call and/or a note from a parent/guardian your child's absence will be unexcused.

→ If your child misses three (3) or more consecutive days, we will need a doctor's excuse.

→ For a pre planned absence (vacation etc.) use the form on page 31 of your Student Handbook. Please try to have this form completed and turned into the Middle school office two (2) weeks before your planned absence.

→ Always notify the Middle School Office of absences.  
*Thank you for your help!!*

## Electronics:

### ELECTRONIC DEVICES "E-TOYS"

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU READ THE  
MIDDLE SCHOOL POLICY  
SEE PAGE 24 IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
PLANNER...

**Cell phones must be turned  
off and locked in each  
student's locker!!**

YOU TAKE THE RISK OF LOSS OR DAMAGE  
WHEN YOU BRING ONE OF THESE DEVICES  
TO SCHOOL. THE SCHOOL WILL NOT BE  
RESPONSIBLE FOR LOSS OR DAMAGE.

The following charges will apply to  
damaged chromebooks:

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Full chromebook      | \$346       |
| Damaged Screen       | \$229       |
| Entire Keyboard      | \$99        |
| Broken Hinge         | \$15        |
| Missing keys         | \$2 per key |
| Battery              | \$69        |
| Top cover (LCD lid)  | \$49        |
| Bottom Case          | \$49        |
| Damaged/Lost charger | \$25        |

Please consider purchasing the  
chromebook insurance for your child.

## BOOK FAIR.....

The annual book fair will be taking place soon in the Library. Students will have an opportunity to visit **once** with their Lang. Arts classes. We will show videos and pass out flyers early Oct.

This annual event is in cooperation with Scholastic Book Co. The students enjoy this shopping experience, and the books are selected especially for middle school students.

The dates for the fair during school hours will be Monday Oct. 13 through Thurs. Oct. 16. The library book fair will also be open for A FAMILY EVENT during the Conference nights on Mon. Oct. 13 and Wed. Oct 15th from 3:30 – 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

If you don't want to send money with your student, you may set up an eWallet account through our bookfair page at Scholastic.com. Each student who has an eWallet account will receive a free bookmark for the convenience of being cash free at the fair. They do check out quicker! ☺  
Link to Get started  
<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/westholmiddleschool> scroll down and click on the red eWallet *get started* tab.

\*\*\*ATTN; families with students in Elementary and Middle School: each WH Student **must** set up eWallet for THEIR BUILDING, we cannot share funds between us. Set up ewallet for EACH child at their building's book fair **homepage**. We also accept cash, credit cards, and checks payable to: WH MEDIA CENTER. We will be rounding up all sales to the nearest dollar to speed things along at the check out register. These funds will go to *SHARE THE FAIR* donation, and will buy books for our library. If you do not want your extra change rounded up and donated, please ask your student to let us know at the register on their shopping day.

If you're all booked up during Book Fair week (or just want to keep shopping), be sure to visit <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/westholmiddleschool> The online Book Fair is available for an *extended time* from Oct 10<sup>th</sup> - Oct 23<sup>th</sup>.

**Students will receive more information from their Language Arts teachers\*\*PLEASE NOTE, we are required by Scholastic to charge Sales Tax on all book fair sales. We will also have a SUCKER PULL, kids can pay 50 cents to pull a sucker for a chance to win books, posters or other prizes. If they don't win, they do at least get to keep the sucker!**

