

# BULLDOG BEAT

November 2022

## Important Dates to Remember:

Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> – Parent -Teacher Conferences

Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> – Election Day/No School

Nov. 11 – Veteran's Day/No School

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> - School Improvement Day-1/2 day

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Photos

Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Progress Reports

Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> – Fall Break

Please see school calendar for District Policies



## This issue

Principal's Message P. 1

Assistant Principal's Message P. 2

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Resource and Support Staff P. 9--17

WJHS Classroom Happenings 6-8<sup>th</sup> Grades P.18-21

As we are winding down toward the end of the first quarter, I am starting to reflect on the opening of the 2022-2023 school year. We are off to a great start. We have completed a lot already. With that said, I'm not sure I take enough time to thank the biggest and most important parts of our students' lives...our Washington families. We appreciate all of you for working with us as a team. As a parent, I know raising children can be a difficult task. I know we try as hard as we can to do what's best for our children. We may make mistakes, but we give it our all. For that, I appreciate all of you and am proud to be working with such great families.

I've worked in the community now for 15 years. I have built many strong, life-long relationships with staff, students and families. There are now students in the building who are siblings or children of students I have taught. I cannot help but feel a great sense of pride when I think about these bonds. I am proud of our Washington family and look forward to continuing the task at hand, which is helping our students grow up to be successful. A heartfelt, sincere thank you to all of you who do all you can for our Washington Bulldogs. Here's to you!

Principal

Washington School

## **Washington School Vision Statement**

The vision of Washington School is to provide each student a diverse education in a safe, supportive environment that promotes self-discipline, motivation, and excellence in learning.

## **Washington Staff Promise**

The Washington School Family promises to join the parents and the community to assist the students in developing skills to become independent and self-sufficient adults who will succeed and contribute responsibly in a global society.

School Website:

<http://www.district148.net/washington/>

Parent Info Online @

<http://www.district148.net/parent.html>

## **A Message From The Assistant Principal...**



November is one of my favorite months of the year. The temperature is finally where it is cold in the morning and beautiful during the day. The fall colors are in full swing. The holidays that are focused on family, gratitude, and caring are upon us.

We have much to be grateful for here at Washington School. We have a wonderful, caring staff from our custodians, our paraprofessionals, our office staff, to all of our teachers. I am grateful every day for the opportunity to work with all of them and I know your children are in good hands with them. We have supportive parents and community, at the forefront, to which we all say thank you for all that you do to make Washington School the highly rated school it is today. And finally, we have incredible students, who challenge themselves every day to learn and be engaged as well as challenging us to become better people. They are why we are here every day!

We want to invite you to become more connected to Washington. Please make sure our office has the correct email and phone numbers for you. You should receive a weekly email update from us. If you don't, then we want to make sure that you do. For some of you, it may be that your email settings block our messages and for others, it may be that we do not have accurate information.

Our website, <https://www.district148.net/washingtonelementary/index>, has contact information as well as calendar information that you can use to help plan your year. We try to keep it up to date as well with our Newsletters and important information throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Banks,  
Assistant Principal



# KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten  
Teachers...

Happy Harvest Kindergarten families! Thank you for making sure your child is on time and learning every day! Attendance is a key ingredient to learning.

Class news and information pertaining to your child's learning will be on Class Dojo and Clever news. Send in wrappers on Wednesdays for language development. Thank you for your cooperation with our project Math About Me! We will meet on November 4, 2022, for parent teacher conference on Zoom.

During Ready Reading, we'll continue to identify story elements and ask questions through literature texts. With iReady Math instruction, we will continue counting and writing numbers to 5. In Science, we will discover what plants and animals need to live. During Social Studies, we are continuing our discussion on families.

Congratulations to our Class Ambassador for Kindergarten: Angel Green We are also very proud of our Student of the Month: David Rodgers Jr.

Ms. Scott



# 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teachers

Ms. Thomason  
Ms. Hines



# FIRST GRADE

Happy Autumn First Grade Families! Thank you for making sure your student is on time and learning every day! Attendance is essential to learning. We appreciate your continued support. Please make sure that your student is prepared for the change in the season by keeping an extra sweater at school.

Our path to learning is an exciting one. In Language Arts, we are learning rhyming words, the initial and final sound segmentation, and story elements. Our first book report will be due. In Math, we are learning how to Count on to Add. In Science, we are learning about living and non-living things. In Social Studies, we are learning All About Me and School Rules.

Please check Class dojo for important messages each school day.

Congratulations to our class ambassadors: Aishat Amuda and Kylann Campbell.

Congratulations to our students of the month: Miketus Randle and Mason Adams.

October 3-7 is Fire Prevention Week. Please review a safety plan with your family on exiting your home safely. Red Ribbon Week is October 23-31.

Love,

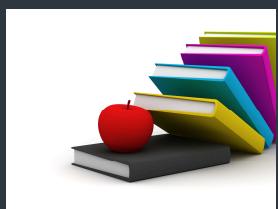
Ms. Thomason and Ms. Hines

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

## Teachers...

**Ms. Pennington**

**Ms. Robinson**



“Education is not preparation of life; education is life itself.” - John Dewey

We have officially made it through the 1st quarter of 2nd grade! As we embark on this journey together, we are reminded that education begins at birth and continues throughout life. Our focus is to provide our students with the support needed to reach their highest potentials and guide them as they learn and develop into well-rounded, whole, and healthy individuals.

In Reading, students have reviewed and learned consonant blends, consonant digraphs, the floss rule, main idea, and making connections between events using sequential order and cause and effect. We have enjoyed using Ready Reading in order to meet the individual needs of our students. In Math, we have learned about mental math strategies for addition and subtraction and are now using these skills in order to solve one-step word problems. Students are becoming more tech savvy with i-Ready Math and using features such as the math tools in order to help solve problems. In science we have completed a unit on adaptations. In social studies, we have learned about and are thankful for our community helpers.

We believe in our students and know that their success is a team effort. Let us continue to ensure that our scholars attend class each day and arrive on time. Attendance is mandatory and imperative. When tardy or absent, students miss whole and small group instruction, which addresses skills in which they specifically need as identified in their beginning of the year assessment data. Student learning paths are a great tool that provide individualized support. Check Class Dojo regularly for posted announcements in the Class Story and Messages. Read, read, read! Students are encouraged to read personal books, classroom weekly stories, magazines, kidsa-z.com, e-books provided on capstone and their leveled texts from small groups. Capstone e-books can be accessed at [www.mycapstonelibrary.com](http://www.mycapstonelibrary.com). Username: washingtondrsd Password: read. Please refer to your child's Class Dojo page for information on accessing the other schools in the district's books. Practice identifying and reading sight words daily. Together we will continue to strive to make this school year an amazing one!

Respectfully,

Mrs. Anita Pennington and Ms. Bethsheba Robinson

**3rd Grade**

**Teachers...**

**Ms. Cain**

**Ms. Watkins**



# **THIRD GRADE**

Hello Families!!

Third grade is moving right along into the next quarter! This month we will continue i-Ready Reading, we have been working with stories that teach us about Learning from Others and The Simplest Solutions. In Math, we will continue working on adding three-digit numbers. Students will also continue rounding, comparing, and adding and subtracting those three-digit numbers. Our key word is “strategy.” In Science and Social Studies, we are addressing many topics such as Nutrition, Living Things and our Community (Riverdale).

## **At Home Tips (Home-School Connection)**

- Read for at least 30 minutes a day (fiction and nonfiction)
- Have your child Read to themselves in front of a mirror, to a family member or maybe even a pet to increase fluency skills
- As we continue rounding in Math children should round off prices while taking family trips to the grocery store as well as other stores

## **Important Dates**

Parent Teacher Conferences- No School for Students - Friday, November 4th, 2022

Election Day No School- November 8th, 2022

Veteran's Day - No School Friday, November 11th, 2022

SIP Day: Noon Dismissal Friday November 18th, 2022

Thanksgiving Break No School- November 23rd-25th, 2022

We appreciate your continued support and patience with our current school year!!

Ms. Cain & Ms. Watkins

## **September STUDENT OF THE MONTH**

Gabriel Hawkins-Ms. Watkins

Fathiat Amuda -Ms. Cain

# 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers...

# FOURTH GRADE

Hello Parents and Guardians!

You will be receiving monthly newsletters from 4th grade with updates on what we are working currently and what you can do to help them be successful.

Our students of the month are:

Janay Moss - Ms. Sheared

Damia Strickland – Mr. James

Congratulations to both students on being the student of the month. We look forward to EVERY student having the opportunity to become the student of the month.

Things we will be working on as a grade level this month are the following:

ELA: We are working with a new reading curriculum called Magnetic Reading and spelling curriculum called Spelling Connections. We are currently on unit 3 in Spelling. We work with each set of spelling words for 2 weeks. There are spelling activities that go with each unit. Please support your child by quizzing them on the spelling words to help them become better spellers and writers. In Magnetic Reading we have learned about how theme and how learning from others helps us. We will be moving on to how

we can make inferences (educated guesses) based on clues in the text. You can help by having your child make educated guesses based on information they encounter around the house or community.

Science – We are working on our science projects which are the entire grade for the 2nd quarter. We have selected our science projects and look to be done with them completely by November 18th.

Math: We have learned how to identify numbers according to place value. Understanding standard and expanded form. We are currently working on comparing multi digit numbers. Next will be working on rounding whole numbers then moving on to using arrays to multiply.

Ways you can help:

Making sure your child is reading at least 20 min every night. It can be whatever they want that is age appropriate.

Making sure they are present, well rested and on time most of the time. Attendance most times has the greatest impact on their learning.

Helping them to learn to be responsible for keeping up with their classwork, homework, and supplies for school.

Please feel free to reach out with questions or concerns. We are here to help and support you as much as we can. We value you and your children.

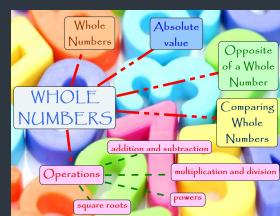
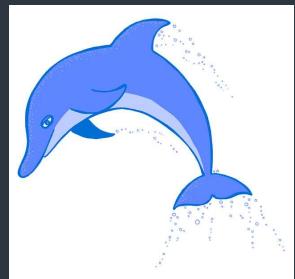
Thank you,

Ms. Sheared

Mr. James

**Mrs. Sheared**

**Mr. James**



# FIFTH GRADE

Fifth Grade Students of the Month

Ms. Garrett-Damien Weatherspoon

Mr. Norris-Jacob Beamon-McSwain

Mr. Pletka-Karmello Dickson

In Reading, we will be determining the main ideas and key details for the story "The Harlem Renaissance." We will also summarize the text "The Arts of the People" and analyze the historical work called "Dust Bowl." We encourage each student to read independently at home for at least 20 minutes a day to build their skills in reading.

In Math, we are using the area model, partial product method, and the standard algorithm to practice multiplication and division of multi-digit numbers. We will begin focusing on fractions-addng, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing. Students should go on the I-Ready Math website and do 20 minutes of practice each night on their Path.

In Science, we are exploring the states of matter: solids, liquids, and gases. We are also working learning about food chains and food webs.

In Social Studies, we are studying government-what it is, what it does, and how it is organized. As you can see, we are keeping busy!

Parents, we appreciate your support. Together we can make this year successful for your child.

Sincerely,

Ms. Garrett

Mr. Norris

Mr. Pletka

5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Teachers...

**Mr. Pletka**

**Mr. Norris**

**Ms. Garrett**



# Elementary Computer

Dear parents and students,

I would like to recommend several programs from ABCYA platform to help our students in Kindergarten and First Grade to develop basic computer skills.



ABCYA is an interactive and attractive learning platform that helps students from pre-K to 6<sup>th</sup> grade to develop computer, reading and math skills. Being easy to use and free of charge adds extra value to its educational worth.

My recommendations are organized by the computer skills expected to be mastered.

## ABCYA programs to use

### **Curriculum goal 1:**

#### Mouse manipulation skills.

- Moving pointer
- Single click - to select an object
- Double click- to activate an event
- Drag – to carry an object over the screen
- Drop – to leave an object in one spot
- Scroll down and up

*Make a Robot*

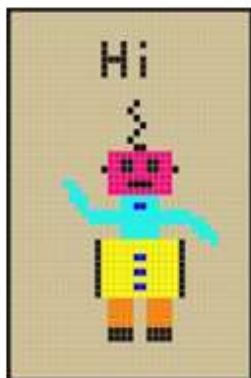
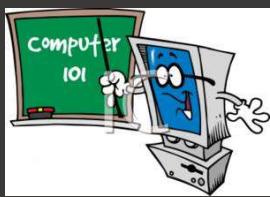
*Make a Showman*

*Make a Backpack*

*Trace to the Beat!*

*100 Snowballs*

*Counting Fish*



### **Curriculum Goal 2:**

Use basic creativity tools such as painting and drawing programs to create original work.

ABCYA Programs to use:

*ABCYA Paint*

*Pixel Paint*



### **Curriculum Goal 3:**

Student identifies and uses numbers and letters on the keyboard.

ABCYA Programs to use:

*Keyboarding Zoo*

*Typing Rocket Jr*

*Cup Stacking*



How to get to ABCYA?

In your browser go to [www.abcya.com](http://www.abcya.com) : K or 1<sup>st</sup> Grade; explore all learning panels.

# ***Elementary Music***

**K-5 Music  
Teacher...  
Mr. Cheney**



Hello Families of Washington School:

Music classes in November are reading, singing, playing, and listening to a variety of music, focusing on different concepts: Kindergarten students are continuing to develop their sense of pitch through singing and listening activities. First Grade students are learning about the major instrument families, as well as musical expression through changes in dynamic level or loudness. Second grade is learning more about reading different pitches and is studying the string family in depth. Third grade is discovering and practicing different ways pitches can be sung or played together to create harmony. Fourth grade is learning about advanced musical symbols and terms. Fifth grade students are learning about music's role in dramatic performance by exploring opera and musical theatre.

# ***Elementary Physical Education***

**Elementary  
Physical  
Education  
Teacher....**

**Ms. Eaker**

Happy November Washington Families! During the month of November, Elementary Gym classes will complete our football skills unit and begin our Basketball unit. K and First graders will play some fun games such as Steal the Chicken while 2nd-3rd-4th-and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will play the basketball version called Steal the Bacon. All students will learn basic ball skills such as dribbling, passing and catching. Scooter relays will also be played with basketballs. Older students will work on shooting skills and lead up game skills in Number Basketball.

# ***From The Desk of Support Services***

Hello Parents/Guardians!

The first quarter is over, and the second quarter is well on its way. Some of our kids are struggling with reading comprehension so, we wanted to give you some tips on how to help your child become a lifelong learner and improve their reading comprehension skills at home. Below you will find 10 tips you can use to assist your student with this goal.

## **1. Set a routine.**

Setting routines for mornings and evenings—including nutritious meals and an early bedtime—helps children cope with stresses that may arise from starting a new school year. Routines have many benefits, namely, children feel comfortable and stable in their environment, resulting in more cooperative behavior inside and outside of school. Children who are overtired, who eat too many fatty or sugary foods, or who are coping with inconsistent schedules are prone to behavioral problems and may find it increasingly difficult to concentrate in school.

## **2. Read at home.**

Reading regularly at home provides children with the practice they need to become great readers. Remember, “The more kids read, the better they read,” and the same holds true for the opposite effect, “the less kids read, the poorer they’ll read.” Beyond practice time, reading at home reinforces a positive attitude around reading—kids start to enjoy reading! The best way to incorporate reading in the household is to devote 20 to 40 minutes, at the same time every evening, to family reading time. Make it part of a routine, as discussed in tip #1. Another fun idea is to have children read to their pets, siblings, or stuffed animals, like a game.

## **3. Make a special reading spot.**

Designating a special reading spot for children to read with their parents/guardians is not only fun but is also a great way to create a distraction-free zone where children can concentrate. The reading spot should be rid of any extraneous noise, toys, etc. Putting some pillows or a comfy chair in the corner of a living room and surrounding the area with books is a great way to go.

## **4. Be a great reading partner!**

It's no fun to read when you're forced to or feel embarrassed and ashamed to read. Building trust and supporting a child reader is crucial as a reading partner. Here are some tips for becoming a great reading partner:

- Be patient and encouraging.
- Read aloud and track the words with your finger as you are reading.
- Read the same stories over and over. Try reading the same stories in different ways, with different voices to make it fun and interesting.
- Ask questions about the story while you're reading to gauge comprehension.
- Pick books that are at the right level for your young reader, 5 or more mistakes on one page is too hard. No mistakes or only one mistake per page is too easy.
- Gently correct mistakes and re-read the entire sentence.
- Give positive feedback and tell the reader he or she is doing a great job.
- NEVER: Bribe, nag, criticize, judge, or add pressure by making a big deal about reading.

## **5. Surround your child with books.**

According to [Science News](#), research shows that the number of books in the home is a strong indicator for reading achievement and educational attainment. When children have access to books in their home, they become familiar with books and the act of reading, effectively giving them a head start in learning. A child who looks at books and reads with his or her parents/guardians every day has a major advantage compared to children who never read at home and who have never been introduced to the concept of reading. Simply interacting with books on a regular basis makes a huge difference in a child's development.

## **6. Bring books everywhere.**

Incorporating books into everyday activities will continue to help children become more familiar with books and will encourage everyday reading. Place books in every room of the house, in the car, and take books everywhere.

## **7. Set a good example; be caught in the act!**

Children are a product of their upbringing and mimic the behavior they see at home, repeating the actions they observe from their parents or guardians. If a child observes his or her parent/guardian reading every night, then that child will emulate the same behavior. On the contrary, if a child observes their guardian watching TV every night while they are ordered to read their books from school, then the child might start to resent reading and desire to watch TV.

## **8. Communicate with teachers and get involved in your local school.**

Speaking with the adults that children talk to is one-way parents and guardians can relate to their child's daily activities. Knowing what goes on in the classroom and during the school day helps parents relate to their child's experiences, sparking conversations and an interest in school activities. Communicating with teachers also informs parents and guardians in what areas their children are succeeding and where their students might need more help.

## **9. Set learning goals.**

Talking with children about what they would like to accomplish during the school year will help them start to learn the invaluable skill of goal setting. Working with children to set achievable goals can encourage children to achieve their reading goals.

## **10. Be enthusiastic!**

Positive attitudes are very important to a child's [reading development](#) and generate a desire to read. Showing genuine excitement for children's reading skills will encourage them to become great readers.

Please feel free to call, text, or email us with questions, problems, or concerns.

Ms. Henderson  
K-4 Special Education Teacher  
[henderson@district148.net](mailto:henderson@district148.net)

Ms. Whitehorn  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Special Education Teacher  
[whitehorns@district148.net](mailto:whitehorns@district148.net)

Mrs. Ragland  
Junior High Paraprofessional

Ms. Weber  
5-6 Special Education Teacher  
[weberk@district148.net](mailto:weberk@district148.net)

Mrs. Snedden  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Special Education Teacher  
[sneddenb@district148.net](mailto:sneddenb@district148.net)

# **Resource Team...**

**K-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Special Education:**  
**Mrs. Cullen**

**5th -6<sup>th</sup> Grade Special Education:** **Ms. Weber**

**Elementary Paraprofessional:**

**Ms. Basemore**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Special Education**

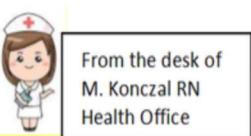
**Serita Whitehorn**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Special Education:** **Mrs. Snedden**

**Junior High Paraprofessional:**  
**Mrs. Ragland**



# From the Desk of Ms. Mary Jo Konczal



Thank you to all who sent in the consent for the dentist and eye doctor. The dentist is scheduled on November 2nd and 3rd. Letters from the dentist will be sent home after the student is seen. All kindergarten, 2nd and 6th grade students need dental exams dates 11/2021 or later. If you have not yet made your child an appointment, please do. If your child has been seen, please send a proof of dental visit to me. Take a picture in good lighting with form on a flat surface and email it to me at [konczalm@district148.net](mailto:konczalm@district148.net). Thank you to all who have already sent them in. We still do not have dates confirmed with the eye doctor to come to the school. I have all the consents ready if and when we can be scheduled. Ageless eye care has not opened up times as of yet.

For those students that have severe allergies or asthma, the Health Office should have a rescue medication that is in the original packaging with pharmacy label already. If you have not yet provided this rescue medication in its original packaging with a pharmacy label, please bring it to the Health Office as soon as possible. Thank you to those parents/guardians that have already done this. Please remember that rescue medications at school allow the nurse to give immediate care to your child and may prevent the need to call 911 and/or being taken to the hospital. In addition to the rescue medication, there should also be a physician's order, medication release form and action plan in the Health Office. Again, if you have not yet sent this information in, please do so immediately. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nurse K at (708) 201-2078 ext 2397.

Have a healthy and happy day!

Nurse K

School Nurse...

Ms. Mary Jo Konczal

RN

Health Office



# ***From The Desk of the Social Workers***

RESOURCE TEAM

Socially Speaking ..... From Your School Social Workers

HAPPY FALL!!!

November is a time to start bundling up, to prepare for the Holidays and to reflect on being thankful. It is also Native American Heritage month - the Peoria and Potawatomi people were in Riverdale hundreds of years ago.

Feeling thankful is a practice, and some days it can feel like there is nothing to be thankful for. Starting gratitude lists with your family is a great way to stay connected to each other and to share good things happening. Try sharing a gratitude journal with your house - older kids can text a family group chat things they are thankful for each night while younger ones can draw or write them out. It also helps set up our dreams to be happy ones, which can help us wake up more rested. Start with 1-2 things that went well that day - everyone woke up on time, we had pizza dippers for school lunch. They don't have to be BIG wins, any couple will do. Gratitude journals can help us focus on what things we like in our lives to help create more space for joy and fun.

Other ways to show thanks can be:

Writing/drawing thank you notes to teachers, parents or other family members.

Having a gratitude jar at home where everyone can write notes to each other about things they liked. Then read the notes once a week/month at dinner together.

Practicing saying thank you at home often, even for the things we are expected to do.

We, at Washington, are thankful for all of you!

Ms. S. Leach, Ms. M. Minear and Ms. T. Newell (intern) - School Social Workers

## **Social Workers...**

**Elementary Social Worker...**

**Ms. Minear**



**Junior High Social Worker...**

**Ms. Leach**

**homework**

**Speech and Language Pathologist...**

MTSS  
Coordinators:  
Ms. Seaton (JH)

## Boost Thinking Skills By Discussing Books

**When your child finishes a book, use it as an opportunity for him/her to share what he/she has learned. Do something simple and natural: Have a conversation. You can:**

**Discuss the book with your child.** Ask him/her what he/she thought of the characters, plot and ending. Consider reading the book yourself to make the talk more lively.

**Have a family discussion.** Suggest that everyone in your family read the book. Gather one evening to share your views. Did anyone have the same favorite part?

**Start a book club.** Encourage your child to read the same book as some of his/her friends. Then, host a book club meeting. They can meet at your home, on FaceTime or at a local restaurant to discuss what they have read.

**Whatever you do always remember to  
MAKE READING FUN!!**

## **Elementary Safety Facilitator**

Greetings to my 148 Family! As the Elementary Safety Facilitator, I along with the K-5 instructors are encouraging our students to continue to participate with our Suite 360 collaborative program. The students are also striving to promote our PBIS 3 B's: Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Safe within their daily routines. In addition, we are motivating our students to remain engaged regarding their I-Ready proficiency activities. Also, our students will experience a field trip to the museum. Let the exploration begin! Lastly, I continue to recognize and acknowledge the efforts of our Student of the Month via Class Dojo, our designated hallway bulletin board, certificates and prizes! By modeling a positive mindset, it can lead to a positive outlook concerning their school, their peers and their educational goals! GO BULLDOGS!!!!

## **Junior High Safety Facilitator**

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caretakers!

First, I would like to take time to thank you for entrusting Washington School with the social and academic success of your child. It's not an easy thing to relinquish the health and safety of your child to others. Let me reassure you that at Washington School, all teachers and staff are taking every precaution to ensure we provide a healthy and safe learning environment for the students. This school year has jumped off to an amazing start. The teachers were excited to teach, and the students were eager to learn. As the year rolls on, I guarantee from a social-emotional and PBIS standpoint that we will make up for the lost days of summer. We have a plethora of educational and fun activities planned for the students. Stay tuned, this year will be a blast!

Hassan Hughes

Safety Facilitator/Athletic Director

Washington Jr. High

(708) 201-2078

## **CARE Facilitator**

Hello Washington Families,

This is a message from your CARE Facilitator Mr. Elias. The students are about 5 weeks into their Suite360 lessons, and they are doing a fantastic job on the social emotional learning aspect here at Washington. Those classrooms receiving an 85% completion for the month of October will receive an out of uniform pass for a day. Please encourage your students to continue their accomplishments on Suite360.

Sincerely,

Mr. Elias/CARE Facilitator

## **Elementary Safety Facilitator...**

## **Ms. Ballentine**



## **Junior High Safety Facilitator...**

## **Mr. Hughes**



## **CARE Facilitator**

# Junior High Computer Teacher

Mrs. Anderson



# Computer Teacher

## Coding

This month the students will be introduced to coding, which is computer programming. Writing code has become a crucial part of creating millions of products that our society uses daily. Code is the foundation for all computers, from the one in your cellphone to the one running a NASA satellite.

### Why learn to code?

The benefits of learning to code can be surprisingly wide-ranging. Here are a few of the ways learning to code can benefit our students:

1. Coding and programming careers have great earning potential
2. Demand remains strong for coding-related jobs
3. Coding ability gives new perspective to problem-solving
4. Learning to code offers career flexibility
5. Learning to code can be a fun bonding opportunity for families
6. Coding can be useful in jobs students might not expect

As you can see, there are plenty of good reasons why coding is important. Whether it's just for fun or part of a computer class curriculum, students are sure to enjoy the benefits of learning to code as they build a foundation of tech skills.

**Elementary  
And  
Junior High  
Art  
Teacher  
Mr. Jones**



# ***Elementary and Junior High Art Teacher***

It is really hard to believe that we are moving from Fall to Winter already!!! The school year is swiftly moving forward. November brings several holidays: Election Day, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is really special this year since the last few years we were under the cloud of Covid. We are all thankful that in person school is so much better than remote. My Junior High students are exploring projects that depict the human face from a profile or frontal view. Facial features, hair styles and clothing have hundreds of varieties... Pencil sketchings, colored pencils and perhaps tempera paint. The many symbols of November include autumn trees, scarecrows, turkeys, animals in their natural habitat and horns of plenty suggest a variety of projects. I encourage my kindergarteners to practice their coloring skills and scissor cutting. The neighborhood dollar stores offer inexpensive coloring books. Please remember all 3rd thru 8th grade students are required to have an Art folder and either an Art box or pouch for their necessary supplies. The list of art supplies were listed in my Art Parent letter that was distributed in August. If you never received the letter, drop me a line and I will make sure your that your child gets another copy. Parents and students feel free to contact me thru ClassDojo Messages or to my Washington school email at [jonesm@district148.net](mailto:jonesm@district148.net).

Thank you,  
Milton Jones,  
Art Teacher

# 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE

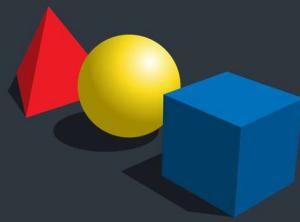
6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Teachers...

Here is what's going on during our classes: In ELA, students will analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (through examples and anecdotes). the central idea and details of a text, summarize informational texts, cite evidence to make inferences, and analyze key ideas in a text. In Math, students will represent three-dimensional figures using nets made up of rectangles and triangles, and they will use these nets to find the surface area of figures. Students will also apply these techniques in the context of solving real-world and mathematical problems. Students will continue learning about the Writing Process during writing. In Science and Social Studies, we will understand the fundamental concepts, principles and interconnections of the life, physical and earth/space sciences. And we will understand world geography and the effects of geography on society, with an emphasis on the United States. We have been very busy learning to appreciate others and education. Let's continue to work hard and have a successful year together.

Ms. Reed and Mrs. Bolden-Winston

Ms. Reed

Mrs. Winston



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers...

Ms. Skinner

Mr. Hughes

Mr. Wells



# SEVENTH GRADE

Washingtonians are working as hard as a steel dog collar on a Bulldog! These scholars commence each day with Suite 360 or their Reading Paths. There are also Language Arts skills to be developed as a Bell Ringer. The schedule is comprised of Math, ELA/Reading, Science and Social Studies, with an elective of Art, Computers and Physical Education. Balanced Literacy is an essential component in the Academic Lives of students in District 148. We utilize various mediums to reach the needs of our young constituents. Laptops, Drama, Sports and Mentorship are a few tools applied in the EDUCATIONAL SETTING to ameliorate the progress of our student body. Washington is organized and proud, Now, it's time to learn!

**Junior High PE  
Teachers...**

**Mrs. Blackful**

**Mr. Elias**



# ***Junior High Physical Education***

**Washington Junior High**

**Physical Education Dept.**

**Dear Parents/Guardians:**

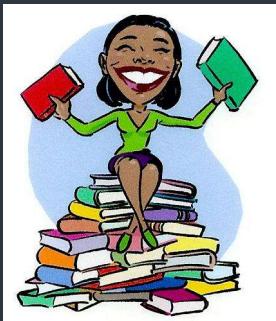
Greetings, for the month of November we will be playing different variations of volleyball. The drills will help agility, coordination, passing, setting, and serving skills. Sportsmanship is always encouraged. Parents, please make sure that your student, grade 7th and 8th wear their Washington Junior High school gym uniform to every gym period. Five (5) non-dress days will result in a failing grade.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Mrs. Blackful at (708)201- 2078.

Girls Volleyball tryouts: December 5th, 2022 \*Must have Sports Physical\*

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
ELA  
Teacher**

**Ms. Gray**



# **EIGHTH GRADE**

Greetings Washington Family!

The conclusion of the first quarter brings us to a new focus in ELA. We have taken our first Interim Assessment in our Ready Reading books and students are now exploring how to understand a literary work by using evidence to understand what is not stated directly stated by the author. Eighth graders have taken the PSAT and will soon know their placement for their high school classes. The results will also provide students with the information they need in order to focus on certain Common Core Standards that they may not have mastered yet. With the help of the My Path feature of our Ready Reading curriculum, it is our hope that all students will enter high school prepared for success. The Instructional Grouping will also allow students to practice skills that have been identified through the beginning of year diagnostic testing. Parents, please be cognizant in checking your student's progress by logging into PowerSchool. You can access PowerSchool by clicking on the Parents tab on the district's website and selecting PowerSchool Parent Portal from the drop-down menu. Log in using the information on the letter than was sent home with all students. Reach out if you have any questions or concerns. You may contact me by email or ClassDojo.

Maxine Gray, M.S.Ed, M.Ed

[Graym@district148.net](mailto:Graym@district148.net)

ELA Teacher

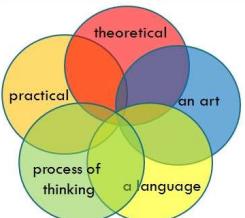
Washington Jr. High

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher

Ms. Weathersby



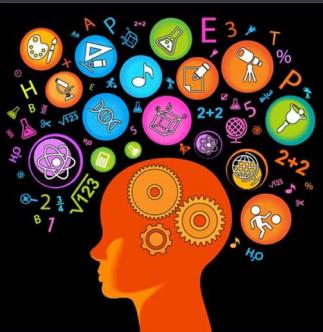
Mathematics is ...



# EIGHTH GRADE

In Math, Ms. Weathersby's Wonderful Math Scholars are adapting very well to our new Math Program...Ready Classroom Mathematics along with the i-Ready Computer Component now that we have our computers. Some of them are still struggling with the rigorous learning standards and higher expectations. However, we need to work TOGETHER to ensure our students are staying focused and working to the best of their ability. I-Ready is a personalized instruction path that helps students fill prerequisite gaps and build up grade-level skills. Therefore, it is **IMPERATIVE** that students are not only completing their Teacher-Assigned Lessons and Homework but also, that they are completing assignments in their My Path Assignment Logs. Students should be logging on to i-Ready **EVERYDAY** during Intervention which is built in their schedules from 1:40-2:30! On some days, I have extended Math Sessions during that time; however, students are still expected to log in for at least 20 minutes afterwards.

Our Eighth Graders Scholars will be finishing up Lessons 10 through 14 which focuses on Linear Equations and Systems of Equations. Students know that the lesson we are working on in the book are always available to them online in Teams as well as the slides from class. All book assignments are also posted on Teams and should be turned in on Teams. If you should ever need to contact me, I can be reached on my cell at 708-248-2511...e-mail [weathersbyn@district148.net](mailto:weathersbyn@district148.net) or on Class Dojo.



# EIGHTH GRADE

## Welcome to the Energy Module

Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Grade,

We are about to begin learning about the types of energy. This is a huge topic that is very fun! All students will have to know about potential energy and kinetic energy, but they also need to know light energy, electrical energy, nuclear energy, chemical energy etc...

There are also so many science topics connected to energy. We will actively touch on a few. Students will learn to think about energy in terms of work relating to physical science, and they will think about energy and how it relates to the sun involving life science. Energy is all around us, so it is a big topic. So let the fun begin!!!

Ms. Martin- Science

# November



2022

## WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
					<i>Parent Teacher Conferences- No School</i>	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
					<i>Veteran's Day – No School</i>	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	<i>Fall Photos – 6th – 8th Grade</i>				<i>SIP Day Noon Dismissal</i>	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		<i>2nd Quarter Progress Reports</i>	<b>Fall Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Break</b>	
27	28	29	30			