

# BULLDOG BEAT

January 2024

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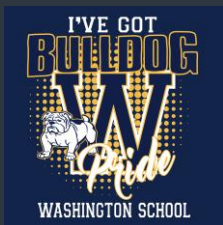
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### Important Dates to Remember:

- **Dec. 25 - Jan. 5**  
**Winter Break - No School**
- **Jan. 19 - School Improvement Day - ½ Day**
- **Jan. 15 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day - No School**

**Please see school calendar for District Policies**



**2020 STATE CHAMPIONS**



Happy Holiday season to everybody! I hope you all enjoy your time with family and friends. I hope you take some time to relax. I hope you have some time to recuperate.

Why? For one, you deserve it. BUT...also, we've got a lot of work to do in the second half of this school year! Looking at our data through the first half of the school year, we can see some amazing things happening here at Washington School. Some students have already reached their typical growth goal in reading or math for the year and will now look to obtain their stretch goals. We want to continue this and ensure that all students are growing and successful.

Please talk to your student's teacher regarding this data we have obtained. Ask your student if they know their reading or math level. Let's all work together, as we have, to make each and every student at Washington a success.

Sometimes cliches are common because they are true. The saying "it takes a village" is one of those. That village is Riverdale!

## 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>

Sign up and check students' grades online:



## A Message From The Assistant Principal...



Dear Washington Families,

I wish you health, happiness, and peace for the New Year. The bitter weather serves as a reminder to reset, reflect, and continue our journey together to offer great things to our children. As an instructional leader, student improvement is always on my mind. There are so many ways we can address and measure achievement goals.

As a staff we attend professional development workshops within and outside of our District. One meaningful and practical way we have embraced in our work is called Instructional Rounds. Instructional Rounds is school based and is used to professionalize teaching and improve learning. During Instructional Rounds, school or District teams plan to visit classes and focus on an area staff have identified as a 'problem of practice,' or an area we want to exam to be sure we are meeting student needs. The problem of practice must be related to core instruction for all students, is actionable, and observable. After classroom visits take place, the team gives factual feedback on their observations and helps the school team identify the next level of work. The staff then uses this feedback to connect with and support the ongoing improvement work.

"A problem is nothing more than an opportunity in work clothes."

– Michael Michalko

Ms. Banks,  
Assistant Principal



# KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten  
Teachers...

Ms. Scott  
Ms. Hines

Welcome to Kindergarten Families! Thank you for making sure your child is on time and at school every day! Attendance is a key ingredient to learning.

In English Language Arts, we will begin Unit 1 All About Me, our focus includes concepts of print, letter recognition and formation of Mm, Tt, Aa, Ss, Bb, Ii, Ff, and Hh, and rhyming. Also, we can develop skills to describe the relationships between illustrations and text. During Math, we will describe position, compare length and height, and sort and count objects. This quarter students will be required to write their first name, complete sorting activities, name positions, and be able to identify at least 25 high frequency (sight) words. In Science, we will begin discovery of the scientific process, define science, and understand how scientists work. During Social Studies, we will identify qualities about self and others.

**Congratulations!**

**Class Ambassadors :**

Jacob Weston (Scott) Calese Payne (Thorpe)

**Student of the Month:**

Sergio Madix (Scott) Ava Jefferson (Thorpe)

Parents should be connected to Dojo, connect home device to Dojo (if possible), turn in medical and dental forms, and library permission slips. As a suggestion, an extra set of clothing may be kept at school in the event of an emergency.

Love,

Ms. Scott and Ms. Grover



1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Teacher

Ms. Harris  
Ms. Benedict



# FIRST GRADE

Happy New Year Friends and Family!

We have gotten our midpoint testing complete and we were able to see the growth in many of our students. Please continue to enforce being a good citizen because it starts at home. First graders should be able to compare characters, ask and answer questions about what they are reading, and identify the setting of the story as well as the main idea. The anchor text that we are reading is Who Eats What? In Language Arts, students are learning about questions and words that we use to ask questions. Math skills that are being taught are subtraction with number bonds and making subtraction sentences. Please continue to work with your child on these basic skills such as letter recognition, number recognition, sight words, counting to 100, and adding and subtracting within 20.

Thank you for all that you do!

Mrs. Harris

Ms. Benedict

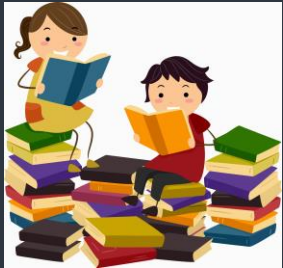


## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

### Teachers...

Ms. Pennington

Ms. Robinson



The 2nd Grade team wishes to thank all the parents and guardians for your continued support. We are having a great year. We could not do it without you! This month in Reading we are working on the Theme "Making Decisions," story structure, including understanding characters and illustrations, and story sequence. We have studied words with consonant blends and digraphs. In math, we recently completed a unit on two step word problems. In science we are also practicing with using graphs to analyze data. In social studies we are working on famous African Americans that made improvements in the quality of life for others. We have so much still in store for the school year and cannot wait! Be safe and enjoy as your child shares more on his/her learning experiences.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Anita Pennington and Ms. Bethsheba Robinson

3rd Grade

Teachers...

Ms. Cain

Ms. Watkins



# THIRD GRADE

Greetings 3rd Grade Families!!

Happy 2024!! In i-Ready Reading we will begin Unit Two, which includes informational texts about Animal Survival. In i-Ready Math, we will continue Multiplication and Division and begin Unit 3 shortly.

As we start the second half of our school year, please make sure your student comes every day and is prepared with crayons, markers, pencils etc. Our classrooms could also use tissues if you are able to donate.

We wish you a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!!

Ms. Cain & Ms. Watkins

## **December Students of the Month**

Ms. Cain: Eiriyana Webster

Ms. Watkins: Kameron Gibson

# FOURTH GRADE

Hello Parents and Guardians!

Here's your monthly updates from 4th grade with updates on what we are working currently and what you can do to help them be successful. Please read to stay updated.

## Our students of the month are:

Londyn McBride - Ms. Sheared

Laniyah Hogan- Mr. James

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 kicking off January with unit 6 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. They will also be getting vocabulary words to help build their vocab knowledge.

In Magnetic Reading we have learned to summarize a story, identify the theme of a story, make inferences based on the clues in the text, Character traits, and main idea. We are now working on defining the meaning of words.

Science – We wrapped our science projects with our Science fair on December 6th. Our winners were as follows: 3rd Place – Londyn McBride, 2nd Place Aliyat Amuda and Fathia Amuda, and 1st place- Gabriel Hawkins.

Math: We are learning how to use decimal points and different types of angles. Students knowing their multiplication facts are crucial to their success not only in 4th grade, but grades to come.

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,

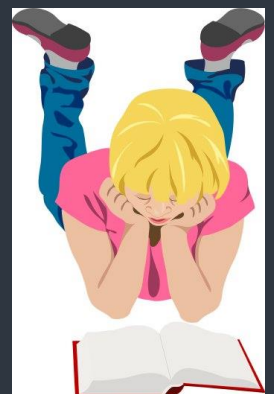
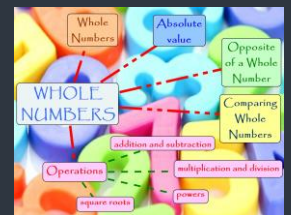
Ms. Sheared

Mr. James

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

Mrs. Sheared

Mr. James



# FIFTH GRADE

Fifth grade is looking forward to a great year in 2024. In Reading, we are studying the Earth's Water. First, we will be learning how to determine the meaning of figurative language with an excerpt from Water Rolls, Water Rises and the story Rain in Summer. We are also using our inferencing skills to understand the non-fiction selections Water, the Liquid of Life and Hidden Water.

In Math, we are starting our study of Decimals, as we continue to work on Fractions. This unit is especially important because fractions play a huge part in the Spring IAR testing. We will be learning how to use our place value strategies to understand decimals, as well as how to add, subtract, multiply and divide decimals-just as we did for fractions.

In Social Studies, we are exploring the continents and the many countries in the world. How are cultures similar? How are they different? What languages are spoken in other countries? We are preparing for a project in which we will share our research skills and present what we have learned.

In Science, it's all about the Earth. We are learning the layers of the earth and the role that each layer plays. It is a fascinating journey in learning how our Earth works.

Reminders: Homework gives your child the opportunity to practice skills taught in class. Homework is assigned Monday thru Thursday. Reading should take place in the home for at least 30 minutes a day.

Thank you for all that you do. Together, we can make this a successful year for your child. Let's continue to work together.

Sincerely,

Ms. Garrett

Mr. Norris

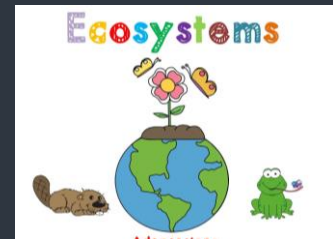
Mr. Pletka

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

Mr. Pletka

Mr. Norris

Ms. Garrett





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



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

**Ms. Eaker**



## ***Elementary Music***

Hello Families of Washington School:

January music classes are learning to read, sing, play, and listen to a variety of music, focusing on different concepts: Kindergarten and First Grade students are developing their voices through simple songs, learning about concepts like long and short, fast and slow, and loud and soft. Second grade students are studying ways melodies can move and common forms that songs have. Third grade students are busy learning how to read music's note names on the treble clef, as well as in-depth study of the four instrument families. Fourth grade students will be learning to recognize patterns in music when performing and listening, as well as composing. Fifth grade students will be learning about musical performers and styles, expanding their repertoire of known songs through exploring musical genres such as pop, blues, and soul.

Thanks for your help in moving the students forward!

Mr. Cheney

## ***Elementary Physical Education***

Happy January Washington families! This month K-4 physical education students will begin a volleyball unit. 3rd and 4th graders will learn the volleyball lead up game of nucomb ball. They'll learn the basic rules of the game while playing a modified game where they can catch and throw a soft volleyball. Younger students will play beachball volleyball, learning to hit a light ball over the net.

Just a reminder that all students must wear gym shoes to participate in class. Please make sure if your child wears boots to school in the cold weather that they have their gym shoes with them on gym days.

Janet Eaker

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

Building coping skills is huge during this time. Changes are constantly happening. A coping skill is something that helps a person deal with unpleasant feelings such as stress. Learning to cope is a very important skill that takes a lot of practice. Parents and guardians can help children build coping skills. Brainstorming as a family is a tool of coping. When someone in the family needs to access a “tool” to cope, they will have it in their toolbox. What works for one person, may not work for everyone, so it is important to try different coping skills to find what works for each member of the family. Take time to talk about which strategies were helpful or which strategy everyone might try next time a strategy is needed. Some examples of coping skills include exercise, keeping a gratitude journal, talking with positive people in your life such as friends, family and teachers, deep breathing, listening to or playing music, or engaging in a hobby that you enjoy.

Thank you,

### **Washington School Support Staff**

- ~ Ms. Henderson  
K-4 Special Education Teacher  
[hendersonk@district148.net](mailto:hendersonk@district148.net)
- ~ Ms. Weber  
5-6 Special Education Teacher  
[weberk@district148.net](mailto:weberk@district148.net)
- ~ Ms. Whitehorn  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Special Education Teacher  
[whitehorns@district148.net](mailto:whitehorns@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

5<sup>th</sup> -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



Welcome back from winter break. I hope everyone had an enjoyable time with family and friends.

As the weather gets colder as we progress into winter, frost bite and frost nip can be a concern. So please, make sure your child is dressed for the weather with hats, gloves, scarves, boots, and warm coats. Frost bite is frozen body tissue and is characterized by white, waxy skin that feels numb. There are varying degrees depending on how deep the tissue is injured. The areas of the body most prone to frost bite are head, face, ears, hands, and feet. Children are at greater risk due to heat loss from the skin occurring more rapidly. A child outdoors having fun is reluctant to want to come indoors. Frost bite needs immediate medical attention from a health care provider. Frost nip is a milder injury. It usually affects the cheeks, ears, nose, fingers, or toes, causing them to be red, numb, and tingling. Frost nip can be treated at home. If it occurs, bring the child indoors, remove wet clothing, and immerse affected body parts in warm, not hot, water for 20 to 30 minutes. Do not allow the child to regulate the temperature of the water, as numb hands won't feel the heat, and this can lead to burning. Body heat can also be used to re-warm the child. Do not use stoves, radiators, or fireplaces due to numbness of body part and loss of feeling. Call the doctor if sensation does not return and seek medical help.

If you or your emergency contacts phone number has changed, please contact the school. Updated information is very important if your child is ill, or an emergency has occurred.

It is not too early to make appointments for your future kindergarten or sixth graders to get their physical and immunizations as required by the state. Feel free to contact me with any questions or if you need the forms. I can be reached at (708)201-2078 extension 2397.

Have a happy and healthy day.

Nurse K

## School Nurse...

Ms. Mary Jo Konczal

RN

Health Office



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

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

Hi, and Happy New Year to everyone!

We are hoping that you had a safe, warm, and jolly holiday! Out with the old and in with the NEW! Say GOODBYE to 2023, and HELLO to 2024! You may feel a little more hopeful, more tired, or all those things at once. All those feelings are OK! If you are looking for some assistance to help focus on your new year goals, here is a step-by-step guide on how to make goals for this new year happen! If the goals are for children or your family, make sure they help you in setting them up! They want to have some control too.

- **Specific**: A goal needs to be very definitive, so you know exactly when the goal has been met. You must be as clear as possible when determining what you want to achieve. Narrow it down as much as you can so you can understand exactly what you need to do to achieve it.  
When teaching kids about SMART goals, it is best to explain this part by saying their goal should answer the questions: who, what, when, where, and why.
- **Measurable**: How will you know you are making progress toward reaching your goal along the way? With a measurable goal, you should be able to answer questions such as How much? or how many? This will help you track your progress and re-evaluate if necessary and take corrective action along the way.  
Let children know that this component usually involves a few of some sort.
- **Achievable**: Before you start acting toward meeting your goal, you need to determine if there are additional steps you may need to take to better prepare yourself for success. For example, if you are not a runner, you will not want to sign up for the next full marathon that is happening in your area—you would want to start with something realistic such as a 5K. Creating unachievable goals is frustrating because you will not be successful. For kids, their goals should be neither too easy nor too hard.
- **Relevant**: Your goals should be in line with your long-term vision. If you set a goal that, once achieved, has not brought you any closer to reaching your larger objectives, you may realize that you have wasted your time and effort. Why is each of your goals important and what is your motivation behind achieving them? How will you benefit once the goal has been reached? Consider these questions to make sure your goals are relevant.
- **Time-Bound**: You need a deadline to remain focused and motivated toward reaching your goals. Having a timeline will give you milestones that will keep you moving forward with making progress toward achieving your goal.

Examples could be "I will make an extra \$50 in an allowance before school is out to ensure I have money for chips and cheese. I will complete my homework when I get out of school without assistance" or "The family will run in a 5k together before August. We will do this by practicing running 3 times a week together."

Ms. Newell – Washington Elementary School Social Worker  
[newellt@district148.net](mailto:newellt@district148.net)

773.756.6724

Ms. Leach – Washington Junior High School Social  
[Workerleach@district148.net](mailto:Workerleach@district148.net)

773.756.6672

RESOURCE TEAM

**Social  
Workers...**

**Elementary Social  
Worker...**

**Ms. Newell**



**Junior High Social  
Worker...**

**Ms. Leach**

**homework**

**Speech and  
Language  
Pathologist...**

**Mrs. Megan Wall**



**MTSS**  
**Coordinators:**  
**Ms. Seaton (JH)**  
**Ms. Smith**  
**(Elementary)**

## Ask Questions to Get Your Child Thinking and Talking About Reading

Helping your child reflect on what they read can help improve their reading, but it can also help improve their comprehension. How can you help them reflect? By asking a lot of questions!

You might ask questions like the following:

- Who were the main characters? What did you like or dislike about them? Do they remind you of people you know? How?
- What happened in the story? How did it start? What happened in the middle? How did it end? Were you happy with the way the book ended?
- Have you ever experienced something that happened to the characters in the story?
- What would you change about the book if you were the author? What plot would make a good sequel?

By teaching them to reflect on their reading, they will begin to develop good reading habits that will make them lifelong learners. A famous African Philosopher said, "A Lifelong Learner is a Lifelong Winner!"

**Winter blues** got you down. Don't know what to do with the kiddos during the cold, winter months?

Try singing songs and chants to the little ones about winter to help them practice counting and rhyming. For more songs and ideas, visit this website: <https://teachingmama.org/winter-songs-for-preschoolers/>

For the older and younger children, try a book challenge. Each week, choose one reading idea to complete.

Visit <https://growingbookbybook.com/reading-challenges-for-kids/> for more reading challenge ideas.

Remember to have **FUN** while learning!

## *Elementary Safety Facilitator*

Season's Greetings to my 148 Family! It is with great excitement that I share with you the incremental growth of our students. The Washington Bulldogs staff and students have been delivering Positive Affirmations building -wide through the Capturing Kids' Hearts initiative. We appreciate everyone's efforts. In addition, the students have been completing Restorative Justice Activities and expressing citizenship. We are a productive community who prides on building a ladder of success for our students! **GO BULLDOGS!!!!**

## *Junior High Safety Facilitator*

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caretakers!

Whew! Where is all the time going? The school year is flying by, but time flies when you're having fun. And yes, your babies are having fun learning and engaging in PBIS activities. As we venture into the new year, our journey is only half complete. Therefore, the students will continue to be poised, focused, and eager to tackle all academic and behavioral challenges. The winter's cold will not freeze the students' wills to achieve great success. In fact, the warmth of Capturing Kids' Hearts and Restorative Justice have kept the learning environment safe and cozy for students to perform their best. As we journey through January, we will continue to heat things up with PBIS celebrations, rewards, and incentives to maintain the positive learning environment our babies have experienced thus far. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do!

## *CARE Facilitator*

Hello Bulldog Families,

I hope everyone had a wonderful winter break! Please be aware that students this time of year are affected by what I call mid-year blues. Their emotional needs to be recharged and their Social Emotional needs are very important this time of school year. We here at Washington continue to advocate for Suite360 lessons to have discussions in class about those needs. If you have any concerns, please contact me at Washington School.

Sincerely,

Mr. Elias/CARE Facilitator

Elementary  
Safety  
Facilitator...

Ms. Ballentine

Be the kind  
of leader  
that you  
would  
follow.



Junior High  
Safety  
Facilitator...

Mr. Hughes



CARE Facilitator  
Mr. Elias



# Junior High Computer Teacher

Ms. Anderson



**STOP**  
**BULLYING**  
**STAND UP. SPEAK OUT.**

## Junior High Computer Teacher



### Coding with Scratch

Happy New Years! We are still coding, in Computer Class 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students will be coding with Scratch, which is a block form of coding (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<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:** will be introduced to coding and learn the basics of coding with Scratch.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:** will have a refresher of coding and learn harder concepts of coding with Scratch.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:** will have refresher of coding and learn advance concepts of coding with Scratch.

Elementary  
And  
Junior High  
Art  
Teacher  
Mr. Jones



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

Season Greetings to all Washington School families and staff. With Winter Break a few weeks away the creative energy of my Art students is peaking. It's something magical how the arrival of winter effects how we see things around us. First Mother Nature once again surrounds us with a beautiful Winter Wonderland of snow-covered houses, streets, and trees. The brisk temperature causes everyone to be attired in their warm winter clothes. This includes colorful hats, gloves, coats, and boots. Even our little animal friends must adjust in gathering food and finding shelter. My Junior High Students will continue to explore Portrait Drawing with frontal and profile views. Also, they will be learning about Perspective Drawing (learning to create the illusion of space). Primary and Intermediate students will explore projects with winter themes: Snowman and Animal creatures in their natural habitat. Also, cheery drawings of people in colorful winter clothing. All while exploring the mediums of pencils, oil pastels, watercolor paints, Paint Stix and tempera paints. 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. I am now suggesting that 3rd thru 8th graders purchase a Watercolor Paint set (available at Walmart, Target, Walgreens for around \$2.00-3.00). Once again if any family is having difficulties in buying art supplies contact me and I will try to assist you in obtaining the needed supplies. The list of art supplies was listed in my Art Parent letter that was distributed in August. 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 and have a WONDERFUL HOLIDAY,

Mr. Milton Jones



# 6th GRADE

Welcome Back and Happy New Year! We are so excited about what the rest of the school year holds for our 6th graders.

Please continue to check your child's book bag for homework and any other important flyers that might come home as well as ClassDojo. Most importantly, make sure your child is reading at home for at least 20-30 minutes a day and studying their math notes.

Thank you for all that you do to help your child become successful.

**"In a world where you can be anything, be kind." —Jennifer Dukes Lee.**

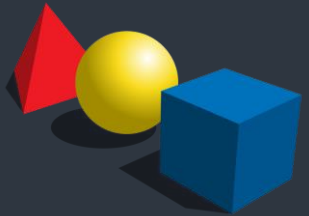
Ms. Reed, Mrs. Bolden-Winston,  
and Ms. Toney

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

Ms. Reed

Ms. Toney

Mrs. Winston



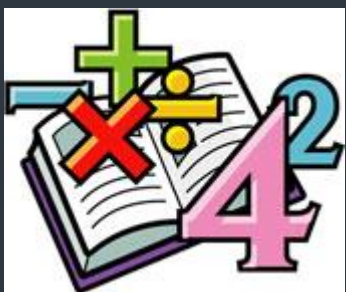
# SEVENTH GRADE

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

Ms. Skinner

Mr. Wells

Ms. Ross



This month is best time of the year for learning! Students are being challenged holistically. Socio-emotional information is taught explicitly through Suite 360. These educational endeavors allow the students to focus on a discrete aspect of their personal life. Next, students are encouraged to ameliorate their literacy skills by a bell ringer in daily language. After an infinitesimal brain break, students are directed to part features. Core subjects, such as Math, Language Arts and Social Studies are classes that utilize a myriad of pedagogical approaches to reach respective students. Homework that sustains learning is a **MUST!**

# ***Junior High Physical Education***

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Washington Junior High Physical Education department would like to wish everyone a safe Winter Break. We encourage everyone to adopt an exercise program if you do not already have one.

Parents, classes resume on January 8, 2024, remember P.E. uniforms are Mandatory for 7th and 8th grade students. Please make sure that your student wears their Washington Junior High School P.E. uniform for class when they return from winter break. 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.

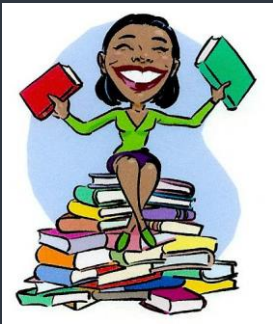


# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers...

Ms. Gray

Ms. Weathersby

Ms. Matlock



Mathematics is ...

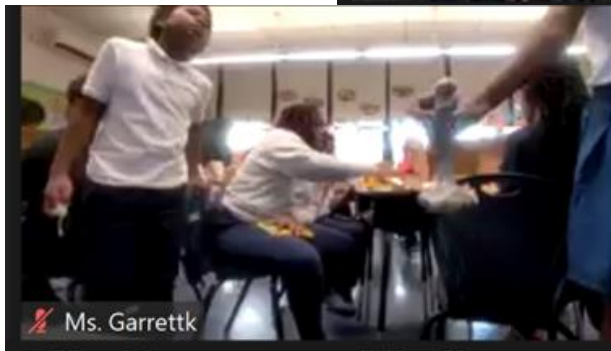
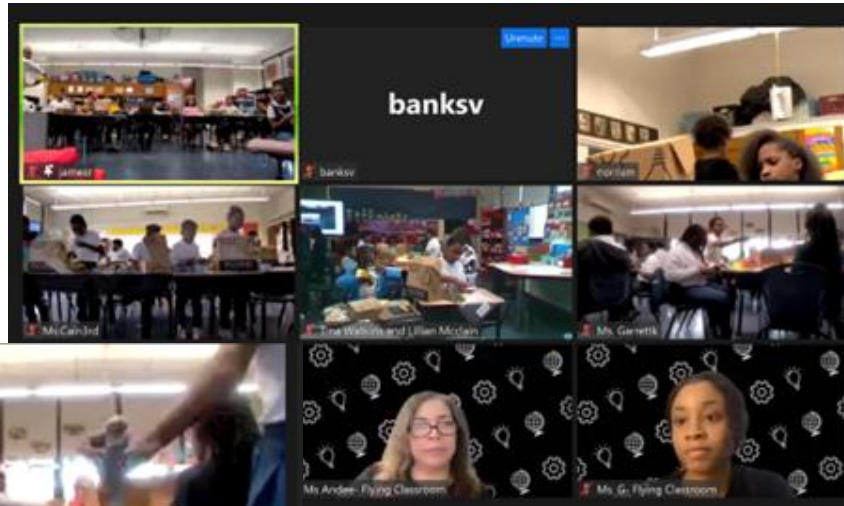


# EIGHTH GRADE

- Happy New Year...and Welcome to 2024!  
In Math, Ms. Weathersby's Wonderful Math Scholars are still trying to get the hang of Eighth Grade Math due to not having a Seventh Grade Math teacher. It's been rough; however, we're pushing through. This month our Eighth Graders will begin Unit 4 focusing on Functions. Students are all aware that the lessons we are working on in the book are always available to them online on iReady. All book assignments are posted on Teams and should be turned in on Teams within the assignment.  
I say this every month because I cannot say this enough but...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 into their schedules from 8:50-9:15! On some days, students are given extra time in class to work on assignments and My Path. It is a requirement and grade for students to complete at least 45 minutes AND 2 lessons each week. Please ensure your student is logging on each day...each week to i-Ready!  
We need to work TOGETHER to ensure our students stay focused and are working to the best of their ability. If you should ever need to contact me, I can be reached by e-mail [weathersbyn@district148.net](mailto:weathersbyn@district148.net) or on Class Dojo.
- Greetings and Happy New Year!  
Let the new year bring many opportunities of growth and development to us all! The close of Quarter 2 is upon us which means only two more quarters to go! In 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA, students are viewing and analyzing their growth data from Middle of Year testing and setting goals for End of Year testing. They recently completed a Writer's Workshop that allowed them to write their own narrative detailing a first experience. The workshop gave students the opportunity to demonstrate their writing skills while telling a story that was unique and personal to them. Also, students are exploring new vocabulary words as they read and learn about how the Grand Columbian Carnival helped to unite the world. In our Ready Common Core workbooks, students are determining the theme of texts, and demonstrating the skill by completing activities related to an excerpt from the Realistic Fiction, "The Canoe Breaker." We are halfway to the goal line, and we will continue to push for a strong finish. Parents, please continue to monitor your scholar's progress by logging into PowerSchool and reach out if you have any questions or concerns. You may contact me by email or ClassDojo.  
Maxine Gray, M.S.Ed, M.Ed



# FUN TIMES HAPPENING AT WJH



# January



2024

## WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Winter Break NO SCHOOL	Winter Break NO SCHOOL	Winter Break NO SCHOOL	Winter Break NO SCHOOL	Winter Break NO SCHOOL	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day NO SCHOOL				Noon Dismissal SIP DAY	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			