



Watertown Middle School

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Ms. Donna K. Martin
Principal

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Assistant Principal

January 27, 2019

Dear Watertown Middle School Families,

I hope everyone survived the cold and ice and torrential rain! Perhaps some more winter weather this week, but I know many of you will be focused on next Sunday... Go Pats!

Some important upcoming dates/events:

Calendar

February 1	Quarter 2 Report Cards sent home with Effort certificates
February 1	Grade 6 field trip to see Percy Jackson: The Musical
February 1	Grade 7 Reading field trip to Watertown Children's theater
February 5	Literacy i-Ready diagnostic assessment – Second Round
	Early Release Day – Conferences
February 6	School Site Council meeting 7-8:30pm
February 7	Evening conferences 6-8 pm
February 8	School Dance 7-10pm
February 11-15	Spirit Week
February 12	Evening conferences 6-8pm
February 13	PTO meeting in the library 7:00pm
February 14	Math i-Ready diagnostic assessment – Second Round
	Early Release Day – Conferences

February 15

Progress Reports distributed

February 18-22

NO SCHOOL – February break

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Jan. 28 B day	Jan. 29 A day	Jan. 30 B day	Jan. 31 A day	Feb. 1 B day
Feb. 4 A day	Feb. 5 B day Early Release	Feb. 6 A day	Feb. 7 B day	Feb. 8 A day
Feb. 11 B day	Feb. 12 A day	Feb. 13 B day	Feb. 14 A day Early Release	Feb. 15 B day
Feb. 18 NO SCHOOL	Feb. 19 NO SCHOOL	Feb. 20 NO SCHOOL	Feb. 21 NO SCHOOL	Feb. 22 NO SCHOOL
Feb. 25 A day	Feb. 26 B day	Feb. 27 A day	Feb. 28 B day	March 1 A day

COATS FOR KIDS: Congratulations to Watertown Middle School for being the **Grand Prize Winner** in the Coats for Kids School Rewards Program! Our school collected a total of 425 coats! Additionally, Watertown Middle School placed **3rd for participating Middle Schools** based on coats collected per student enrolled in the school! The school was awarded the **Grand Prize**, which is \$1,200 donated by Jordan’s Furniture towards sports programs or after school programs! Congratulations and thank you to the Community Service Club and everyone who donated to this excellent cause!

HONOR ROLL AND EFFORT ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLIES: We will no longer be having assemblies for Honor Roll and Effort Achievement except for at the end of the year. This decision comes after many conversations with both students and parents. Students will still be recognized for Honor Roll/High Honor Roll on their report cards, and Effort Achievement certificates will be included with the report cards when they are sent home, so teachers will still be recognizing students for their hard work. There are many students in the school that are affected in a detrimental manner for a variety of reasons by the assemblies, and so it was determined we would have just one assembly at the end of the year. Furthermore, much instructional time is lost as a result of the time spent in the assemblies. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

i-READY DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENTS: A reminder - What is *i-Ready*?

i-Ready is an online program that will help us determine your child’s needs and monitor progress that occurred throughout the school year. *i-Ready* allows us to meet your child exactly where he or she is and provides data for us to increase your child’s learning gains.

The *i-Ready Diagnostic* is an adaptive assessment that adjusts its questions to suit your child’s needs. Each item a student sees is individualized based on his or her answer to the previous question. For example, a series of correct answers will result in slightly harder questions, while a series of incorrect

answers will yield slightly easier questions. The purpose of this is not to give your child a score or grade, but instead to determine how best to support your child's learning. **Your child will participate in three diagnostic, 45-min assessments (one literacy, one math), three times per year (fall, winter, and late spring) to illustrate growth.**

What happens next?

The *i-Ready Diagnostic* will be administered and will provide results that help teachers identify what your child already knows and determine next steps for instruction. If you have any questions about *i-Ready*, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or me. You can also learn more about *i-Ready* by visiting i-ReadyCentral.com/FamilyCenter.

The second round of *i-Ready Diagnostic* dates at WMS are as follows:

Tuesday, February 5th – Literacy

Thursday, February 14th – Mathematics

8TH GRADE DC / WATERTOWN WEEK TRIPS: The trips are coming up from April 8th-12th! The information you need for the DC trip can be found in the Virtual Backpack. Please contact the organizers Abby Casey, Amy Magill and Phil Martin if you have any questions. We are thankful the government shutdown has ended!

Raptor Visitor Management System: This was installed at WMS in October to build on the district's program of safety for students and faculty. Part of keeping students and faculty safe is knowing who is in our building at all times and the Raptor system allows us to do that. The Raptor system allows us to track visitors, contractors and volunteers in our schools and provides us with a safer environment for our students and staff.

Upon entering a district building, visitors will be asked to present a valid state-issued ID, which will be scanned into the system. The Raptor system will scan the visitor's name, date of birth and photo for comparison with a national database of registered sex offenders, as well as locally established alerts (e.g. "no trespass" orders). Additional visitor data from the driver's license is not gathered nor is the system connected to any other system such as the Department of Motor Vehicles. Therefore any other information on the ID is not scanned by the system and is not accessible to any of the users. Once entry is approved, Raptor will issue a badge that identifies the visitor, the date, and the purpose of his/her visit.

MINUTEMAN: A reminder that there is an **application deadline of April 1, 2019**, for any 8th grade student applying to Minuteman.

YEARBOOK: The 2018-2019 WMS yearbooks are now on sale for \$25! Please use the following information to place your orders:

ybpay.lifetouch.com Yearbook ID Code: 7822619

The deadline to purchase is May 1st.

MORNING DROP OFF: As stated at the beginning of the year and in the handbook:

*If you are driving your child to school, **Please consider the safety of our children who are walking nearby. DROP STUDENTS OFF ON BEMIS ST. ONLY. Please do not block traffic, and pull your car clear of others before pulling away.** To avoid traffic tie-ups, consider dropping your child off a block away and letting him/her walk the rest of the way.*

Please DO NOT drop off students before 8:30 at the Waverly Street door. Several buses drop off students there, and it is unsafe to have cars in between the buses and vans. Please drop off your students at the Bemis Street entrance before 8:30am. Our number one priority is keeping the students safe, and so we ask you to please follow the drop off procedures so no accidents occur.

FROM THE NURSE: Due to district wide policy change, cough drops and throat lozenges are no longer supplied by the health office. Students are more than welcome to keep a bag in their locker or backpack if needed.

Best,

Donna Martin, Principal

Twitter: @PrincipalofWMS