



Watertown Middle School

68 Waverley Avenue
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472-3492
Phone: (617) 926-7783
Fax: (617) 926-5407

Ms. Donna K. Martin
Principal

Mr. Jason Del Porto
Assistant Principal

February 7, 2019

Dear Watertown Middle School Families,

A few additional and essential notes for this week below.

Some important upcoming dates/events:

Calendar

February 7	Evening conferences 6-8 pm
February 8	“Navigating the Cyber World” assemblies for students
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 – 1-3pm
February 15	Progress Reports distributed Student/Faculty Basketball Game
February 18-22	NO SCHOOL – February break

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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
March 4 B day	March 5 A day	March 6 B day	March 7 A day	March 8 B day

NAVIGATING THE CYBER WORLD: One assembly for grades 7/8 and one for grade 6 will be held on Friday, February 8th. We hold these informative assemblies for students at least every other year, and are planning an evening event for parents coming soon. More information about the program can be found here: <https://middlesexpartnershipsfor youth.com/in-services/navigating-the-cyber-world> Follow up discussions regarding these topics will be held during upcoming Advisory time.

PARKING ISSUES: *IMPORTANT***** Please DO NOT park in the disabled parking spaces in any of the WMS parking lots unless you have a disabled parking permit. Several times those with the permits have been unable to access the parking spots as cars are parked illegally in them. Please be respectful, compassionate, and obey the law.

SPIRIT WEEK!: Spirit Week is next week! Spirit Days are as follows:

Monday – Pajama Day

Tuesday – Twin Day Tuesday (does not have to be partners, can be many dressed alike!)

Wednesday – Camo/USA day

Thursday – Character Day

Friday – School Spirit Day (8th grade in black, 7th grade in white, and 6th grade in red)

TEACHING AND LEARNING UPDATES: Please be sure and read about all of the amazing Teaching and Learning in the Watertown Public Schools in the Assistant Superintendent’s Winter 2019 newsletter here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1arpRvbMQPX2S8Sz2YxCun46ybWrKISC4/view?usp=sharing>

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

*****Please remind your child(ren) to bring their headphones with them for the i-Ready testing*****

ONE SCHOOL ONE BOOK SELECTION COMMITTEE: The summer reading selection committee has begun to search for this summer's book! The committee will read six titles, and eventually narrow the list down to two finalists for the whole school to vote on. NEW THIS YEAR: parents are welcome to join the committee! To find the book list and meeting dates, visit www.wms1s1b.org.

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