



Washington Wavelength

Fall 2024

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Washington Families,

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year! We have been off to a great start with students and staff working hard, getting to know one another, and establishing critical routines for keeping students safe and engaged in productive learning. It's been an exciting first month, and we're already impressed with the growth we are noticing from all of our learners!

Learning and safety are our top priorities at Washington School, and our partnerships with families are crucial for achieving these. When it comes to student safety, there are several things that parents can do to assist, so I would like to provide a few important reminders:

- There is no adult supervision on the playground until 8:05 AM. Please do your best to not drop students off prior to that time.
- Students are not allowed on the playground equipment after school without an adult.
- The staff parking lot is for staff and visitors only. It is not to be used for drop off or pick up before or after school.
- There is heavy traffic around the school before and after school. Please drive with extreme caution.
- All parents/visitors to the school must enter through our secure pathway next to door 9. Outside doors are locked at all times throughout the day.

We look forward to working with you this year, and seeing you at parent-teacher conferences on October 23rd and 24th to talk about the progress your child is making!

Sincerely,

Matt Peerenboom, Principal

Important Dates

September

2 - No School

25 - Picture Day

27 - No P4J

30 - No School

October

7 - 4th Grade JSOL Field Trip

17 - Oktoberfest - Picture Retake Day

18 - No P4J

23 & 24 - Conferences

24 & 25 - No School

November

4 - No School

22 - End of First Trimester - No P4J

27-29 - No School

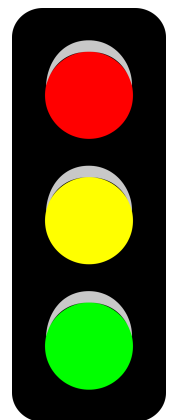
Please like and follow our Facebook page [Washington Elementary School - Home](#)

Traffic and Safety Reminders

Safety Patrol

Our school safety patrol is now on duty before and after school. The students have been trained in crossing streets safely and wear bright yellow safety belts for easy visibility. Please help all of our students stay safe by following the drop off and pick up procedures below.

- ***Please avoid parking on the corners of intersections to ease the flow of Traffic.***
- ***Please avoid parking too close to the crosswalks. This can cause***



congestion and make it difficult for cars to pass through these areas safely, and it can also make it difficult for crossing guards to see around the vehicles to look for oncoming traffic.

- ***Please ALWAYS have your child use the available crosswalks rather than crossing in the middle of the street. Children are safest when crossing at patrolled crosswalks.***

Thank you for all of your help and support! We really appreciate it!

Grade Level/Special Area News

Early Childhood

We're off to a good start in the Early Childhood morning and afternoon programs. Our day is filled with lots of fun activities including circle time, table activities (arts and crafts, fine motor practice, snack), play, and movement. The students are learning the routine and how to play with others. We do have the option of going outside to play, so please make sure to dress your child for the weather.

P4J

We have been excited to begin to get to know the P4J students this year! We have been working on our fine motor skills and developing stronger fingers and hand muscles. P4J students have been excited to use scissors in class and learn the proper technique to hold their scissors. As the colder weather approaches, we will be working on putting our coats on by ourselves and practice zipping our coats. These are great skills to be working on at home as well. I look forward to meeting with P4J families on October 23rd and 24th at Parent-Teacher Conferences to share more about our goals for the year in P4J!

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is off to a great start! We have been learning our school routines and are continuing to work on alphabet, math, social, and digital skills. Please continue to practice letters, sounds, and numbers with your child at home.

For the children's safety, please send shoes that are easy for our kindergarteners to put on and take off themselves. Also make sure sweatshirts, jackets, backpacks, etc. are labeled with your child's name.



The Take Home Folder is a great communication tool between home and school. Please make sure to check it everyday for notes from your child's teacher and/or the office. Also, make sure to check your child's backpack. It may have some memorable things in there to show what we are learning in kindergarten!

First Grade

First grade has had a great start to the year. Students are working hard following rules and practicing the procedures and routines of the classroom. We dove right into our curriculum in the month of September and will continue working through our different weekly themes in reading. Please help your child with their reading progress by listening to them read and practice their decodable stories that come home each night. This will help them with their decoding, fluency and confidence as a beginning reader. In math, first graders are working hard on number sense and adding and subtracting within 20. We'll continue working on our rocket math practice each day to improve fact fluency. As the weather cools down, please remember to send your child in layers as we are outside for recess twice a day, and fall weather can sometimes be unpredictable. Thank you for all the support as we started this school year and we look forward to a great year!

Second Grade

Welcome back to our returning and new Patriot Families! We are loving having everyone back with us after a hopefully relaxing summer break.

We have been introducing and practicing second grade routines. Students have been learning what it means to be a good citizen in 2nd Grade. Our main communication will be through Seesaw.

Our math program uses lots of hands-on explorations and practices skills through our workplace games. This year we will be practicing math fluency facts. They will be coming home on a regular basis. Please feel free to work on any of the problems that students did not complete. There will be math homework 2 - 3 times per week. We also encourage your child to read 20 minutes each day. They may partner-read more difficult text with a grown-up or read independently. In the family newsletter we will list the weekly phonics pattern and heart words. Encourage your child to sound out these words when they come across them in their text and practice the heart words so they know them "by heart". Practice Makes Better!

As a reminder, the weather is changing. Please make sure your child comes with a jacket/sweatshirt. Also please continue to send your child with a water bottle to school everyday.

Third Grade

3rd grade has been hard at work! We are busy getting into our reading, writing, and math routines. We have been reading a variety of fiction and nonfiction stories and focusing on retelling, citing textual evidence, and chronological order. In writing, we are focusing on personal narratives and will be moving onto writing opinions. Continue to look at the Reading, Writing, and Spelling Weekly Focus sheets that are sent home at the beginning of the week. As a reminder students should be practicing their reading for about 20 minutes each night and spelling words as well. In math we will be finishing up our addition and subtraction patterns and moving into multiplication. In Science we are learning about life cycles, adaptations and completing animal research projects. In social studies we are learning about diversity, cultures, geography, and our government. Please look for a reading or math homework sheet sent home once a week. We will also be taking our first trip in November to the Survive Alive house in Beloit, so be on the lookout for more information on that when it gets closer.

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade is off to a great start for the school year! In math we are working on solving multiplication and division problems using different strategies. We have also been working on prime and composite numbers. In reading we have been reading different expository and realistic fiction texts. Some reading strategies we have been focusing on are comparing and contrasting, predicting, and the author's perspective. In writing we have been working on subjects and predicates and compound sentences. We are also going to be starting a new writing piece soon! In social studies we have been learning about the different social sciences as well working on our mapping skills. We have had fun learning about the different continents and oceans. Lastly, in science we have been learning about life science and the different functions of living things. Fourth grade has been working hard and we are looking forward to the rest of the trimester.

Fifth Grade

Fifth grade has been off to a busy start of the year! In math we are starting to work with fractions. We will be adding and subtracting with uncommon denominators. In reading we are coming to the end of Unit 1 and will be starting Unit 2. Unit 2 we will explore expository texts, folktales, and poetry. In science we have been exploring the phenomena of a "pizza farm" and even starting to grow our own mung & lentil beans! Social Studies has been a great exploration for 5th grade! We have done simulations of what life was like as an explorer and colonist. Now we are exploring the relationship between the Colonies and Great Britain which will lead us into the Revolutionary War. We are settling into our routines in 5th grade and can't wait to see what this year holds!

Learning Commons

We are excited to be back up and running here in the Washington LMC. We hope you all are enjoying taking time to read with your students. As a reminder I am including your student's library days. We regularly practice with students the library rules of no

puppies, no babies, no water bottles and our books live in our backpacks. These tips will help keep your students library books safe and ensure they have them to return on their library day so they can select new books. We appreciate your active participation and support in helping your student(s) path to literacy, lifelong learning, and love of reading.

Monday: Johnson, Hartin

Tuesday: Marx, Binkley, Severance

Wednesday: Oswald Am & Pm, Niemeier, Dring, Schmidt, Glowacki, Wilson

Thursday: Choitz, Gray, Otremba, Sendelbach

Friday De Lorimier, Werner, Barry, Halon

Counselor Connections

Hello families!

My name is Mrs. Morgan, and I am the School Counselor at Washington. I can not wait to continue working with our amazing students this year. As the counselor, I am here to help support your student's social, emotional, and academic development. I collaborate with our students, educators, families and professionals in the community to provide your students the resources they need to be successful inside and outside of the classroom.

I will come into each classroom weekly, on the full weeks of school to teach their Connections class! In these lessons we will focus on learning about our emotional brain and coping strategies we can use to work through challenges. We also learn about conflict resolution, friendship skills, growth mindset, safety, and so much more!

If you have any questions or concerns that I may help with, please email me at morgancasey-schm@janeyville.k12.wi.us, call me at (608)743-7225, or text me at (608) 561-1424.

English Learners

Hola! Welcome back to all students at Washington School and especially to the three newest students joining me in English Learner classes. I am excited to start my second year at Washington as an EL teacher. One of the best parts of my job is working with the same students I did last year and adding a few new ones. I love to see the growth from one year to the next.

At the start of the year, it is testing time with STAR and after that, we get down to work. Students will work with me on Reading and English skills while speaking, reading, and writing. All my students will participate in their classrooms with their peers and join me for a little extra work to make sure that each student is meeting their academic goals.

We are off to a great start already and hope to see lots of success as the school year continues.

Mrs. Nass

Notes from the Music Room

Kindergarten: These students are getting to know the music room and each other. We began exploring how a steady beat can be used and found in lots of places other than just music, like in clocks, our hearts, a ball bouncing, our hands, or our feet. We are learning musical games that involve a steady beat and also help us learn names! We are having fun with bean bags and the alphabet and good manners, and will begin exploring sounds and instruments and our own voices.

1st-2nd Graders: Students in grades 1 and 2 are reviewing the steady beat and playing games using bean bags and cups, singing songs, marching, and playing instruments to the steady beat. We will be heading into some very fun activities with beat, rhythm, and melody in the month of October.

3rd-4th Grade: These grades are reviewing steady beat and quarter notes, but also reviewing Treble Clef Staff pitch reading skills. They will be expanding their knowledge of these skills on ukuleles and Orff instruments as we head into October. They have been playing rhythm games with drum sticks that also help us review each other's names, playing Lines and Spaces Bingo, which also introduces them to the Bass Clef.

5th Grade: These students now have music class 3 times a week. The third day is to explore and learn about their music choices they have to choose from when they fill out their schedules for 6th grade in January. Parker H.S. Band, Choir, and Orchestra students came and introduced us to the instruments and choir so they have a better idea of what they sound and look like. The students are reviewing Treble Clef Staff reading and rhythms and will work on Recorders to enforce these skills and demonstrate how a woodwind instrument is played.

A Few Lines from Washington's Art Studio

Dear Families,

I am very excited to welcome back all the Washington artists who have been busy creating in the art studio! We kicked off the year with students creating an art piece of what summer means to them. Students shared their artworks with a partner by guessing each other's ideas and telling what they liked about the art piece.

Each class is learning about the artist, Keith Haring, and doing a Keith Haring inspired project. We are having fun with the movement of the action figures, the bold lines, bright colors, and playfulness of our artworks. Students are using the Elements of Art: line, shape, color, form, and space. They are also using the Principles of Design: repetition, proportion, and movement.

This year students will be investigating artmaking while developing creativity and innovation through: drawing, painting, printmaking, using mixed media, collage, creating sculptures, weaving, sewing, learning about past and present artists, learning about art history, and using clay.

Why Art? Art is everywhere! Art helps you form connections in Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, and Math. Art enhances and enriches all learning experiences. Create is the highest level of Bloom's Taxonomy. Art teaches problem solving skills. It helps us learn about history and many cultures. Art helps us express ourselves. It is a great outlet for stress.

Art develops 21st Century Skills including: curiosity, imagination, creativity, flexible thinking, independence, responsibility, problem solving, evaluative skills, experimentation, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking. These core skills, developed through art, help empower students to meet the challenges of the global marketplace.

I am committed to helping each student feel successful and welcomed. Your support is incredibly valuable as students progress through the year. If ever I can do more to support your child, please let me know.

I cherish the opportunity in helping your child cultivate his/her creative, imaginative abilities and art skills.

Artfully Yours,

Lynn Hopfauf

lynn.hopfauf@janesville.k12.wi.us

608-743-7243

PE News

Hello Washington Friends and Families,

We are off to a great start in the gym this year already, and are back to having a traveling PE teacher again. Therefore, two of the 5th grade classes will be taught by Mr. Rand instead of Mr. Hutson. At the beginning of the year we always like to start off practicing skills that students will be applying throughout the year. Some of these skills include cooperation to help students learn how to work together, throwing which is a skill that is applied in multiple activities, and kicking skills such as passing and dribbling. We look forward to learning many more skills and getting better at the ones we already know.

If you have any questions or need to contact us for any reason:

Mr. Hutson zachary.hutson@janesville.k12.wi.us 608-743-7248

Mr. Rand gannon.rand@janesville.k12.wi.us

Schoolwide Title I Program Notice