



Will Snyder, Principal
Nikki Sutton, Assistant Principal

WAPAKONETA MIDDLE SCHOOL

400 W Harrison St Wapakoneta, OH 45895 419-739-5100

Middle School

May 28, 2019

Updates:

Specials Class Sizes to be Smaller: With the growing class sizes at WMS, we have run into a situation where specials classes have become very large. It is not uncommon to have 34-36 students in a class. The guidance counselors and I have worked hard to create smaller class sizes, but have not found a solution. With the addition of the social worker to teach Social Emotional Learning (SEL) as a special, we are able to lessen those class sizes by at least 20%. To create more sections for our students, we will shorten specials to seven weeks instead of the traditional nine weeks. This equates to approximately 35 days per special. We are also considering going to a pass/fail grading process for certain specials. This will aid in the transition.

Social Emotional Learning Special Added for 19-20 School year: Last winter, our building had a site review process done. In this process, we collected data from students, staff, parents, and classroom walk-throughs. One item that showed as a critical need was the need for more SEL. Effective SEL programming develops students' skills to improve self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and decision making. We are excited to move from a reactive to a proactive approach. This will also help us meet the Ohio SEL standards coming down the road.

Other Info:

Our students who had perfect attendance for one of the last two years celebrated a bowling and pizza party at Astro Lanes this month. To be perfect means to not miss a single minute. A huge thank you to Brian VanMeter for donating the bowling and pizza to our students.

We have three prime time players in our PTO that are finished after this year. A huge thank you to Sarah Pack, Brenda Young, and Susan Hasting for donating their time and energy for the betterment of WMS.

Thank you to our board members and the central office staff for delivering breakfast to our staff during Staff Appreciation Week. We truly enjoyed this thoughtful gesture.

Testing is completed for 2019!

A huge congratulations to Todd Crow as he retires. I was lucky enough to teach and coach with Todd for several years. He is a man who will do anything to help a student or adult and is a tremendous individual.

Thank you to Nikki Sutton for her dedication to WMS over the last year. She is a tremendous leader and an even better person. She has a real gift for educational leadership and WMS is excited for her as she takes the reins of WES.

Upcoming Events:

- August 8, 2019 - 5th Grade Schedule Pick-up: 9-10:30 AM, 5:30-7:00 PM
- August 13, 2019 - 6th and 7th Grade Schedule Pick-up: 9-10:30 AM, 5:30-7:00 PM
- August 15, 2019 - Teacher PD Day
- August 15, 2019 - Back to School Celebration
- August 16, 2019 - Half day teacher workday
- August 20, 2019 - First Day of School