



WASHINGTON ACADEMIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Bonner Character Award Recipient

Our students will learn collaboratively in a rigorous, relevant, and caring culture that prepares them to be college and career ready.



Principal's Message

Welcome Warriors! We are looking forward to a fantastic new school year! Students were excited to be back to school to see their friends and to meet their new teachers. Our campus is buzzing about all the new activities and events that our students can look forward to this year.

Warrior P.R.I.D.E. (P-Prepared, R-Respect, I-Integrity, D-Dedicated, E-Excellence) has remained strong and our kids were able to understand the expectations throughout campus. The Warrior PRIDE days are dedicated to the advisory period for teachers to build relationships within their class. Students were taught that bullying is not allowed and how to intervene if it happens. Our teachers know and believe that in order to build a learning environment, every child must have a caring adult that believes in them.

Additionally, students were part of an assembly where they learned how to prevent bullying and how to treat one another with kindness. Our curriculum, *Second Step*, has helped to build a growth mindset and helps to strengthen our Social Emotional awareness. Every Friday, a new lesson is taught within advisory where students learn more about how to treat one another with respect and how to resolve conflicts when they arise.

One of our goals this year is to get more students involved with activities and clubs. Club Rush will be September 6th during all lunches. Students will have a chance to get information and sign up for clubs.

We had another successful year last year and look forward to this year. Here are some ways to ensure student success:

- **Check planners daily to ensure that students are getting blue stamps.** When they receive a red stamp, it will tell you that they did not turn in an assignment. You can also check Power School to ensure that they are turning in all their assignments. For assistance contact the guidance office.
- **Make sure students are getting to school on time.** Support school rules and consequences for being tardy. Remember if they are not here, they are not learning!
- **Plan a study time and area for your child.** When students have no distractions around them, they will be more successful in their studies. Set high expectations; for example, "No texting, no television during study time". We also offer a Homework Lab Monday-Thursday from 3:00-4:15 if students need a quiet place to study and do homework.
- **Spend quality time with your child.** Ask them about their day regularly. If you ask, "How was your day?" and they respond, "Good," keep asking to know a little more. Pay attention to who their friends are, and how they are communicating.
- **Volunteer at the school.** Volunteer at the school for major events, in the classroom, on School Site Council, join PTA, or become a W.A.T.C.H. DOG. These are all ways to get involved.

Leo Castillo
Principal

PBIS Corner Social-Emotional Learning

Washington Academic Middle School has continued to represent Sanger Unified District as a Gold Level model school through the Fresno County Office of Education's Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) awards program for the third consecutive year. These supports have helped to make WAMS a safer school and continue to improve student behavior through positive relationships in the classroom and clear expectations across campus.

In addition to the continued supports through PBIS, Sanger Unified ensures access to all students to Social Emotional Learning (SEL). SEL uses a whole-child approach, which means that in addition to teaching reading, writing, and mathematics, SEL also helps children learn the social-emotional skills needed to become good citizens. At the same time, SEL helps them learn to make responsible decisions later in their lives. Social-emotional learning helps children with the following: understanding and managing emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships with both peers and adults, and understanding what it is like to walk a day in another person's shoes.

Students who struggle with social-emotional skills often have difficulty in school, and may continue to have problems being successful even as adults. WAMS has SEL supports in place to help students improve those skills. These include: Second Step programming, Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports, Restorative Justice, Student Assistance Programming (SAP) groups, as well as behavior intervention and counseling supports.

Emily Flores Bobby Muñoz
School Psychologist School Psychologist

ATHLETICS

The fall season is off to a great start with 6 district sports being offered: Football, girls' volleyball, tennis, water polo, cross country, and girls' golf. The Sanger Warrior district teams are coached by the following:

FOOTBALL: Sam Villagomez (8th) and Kevin Ashford (7th). All games are on Saturdays – 7th grade at 9:00 and 8th game starts immediately following the conclusion of the 7th grade game, around 11:00.

VOLLEYBALL: Sindee Silveira (8th) and Melanie Parrent (7th). All games are on Mondays and Wednesdays; 7th starts at 3:30 with 8th grade immediately following. All home games are played in the West Gym.

TENNIS: Michael Hamilton (boys) and Sarah Ellis (girls). All matches are on Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning at 3:30. Boys and girls play concurrently.

WATER POLO: Kristin Ehrle (girls) and Kellie Sanders (boys). Matches are not on set days, so please refer to the schedule. Girls begin at 3:30; boys immediately after at approximately 4:30. All home matches are at the pool at the WAMS pool (or the SHS pool on occasion.)

CROSS COUNTRY: Gilbert Fierro (boys and girls). Meets are on Thursdays at 3:30.

GIRLS GOLF: Jeff Shahbazian. Most matches are on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Home matches are played at Sherwood Golf Course.

Come out at support our Warrior Athletes!

6th grade athletics (Braves and Chiefs) began on Monday, August 27th. Football, cross country, and volleyball are offered. Games are played on Fridays at 12:30pm. Go Chiefs and Braves!

FOOTBALL: Coaches: Chettra Pen and Eric Flores

VOLLEYBALL: Coaches: Alexandra Martinez and Tia Weemes

CROSS COUNTRY: Coaches: Gilbert Fierro and Gina Montelongo

The health of your athlete is very important to us. We monitor the air quality and heat each day to ensure that the conditions are safe for our athletes to participate. At home, you can also help by encouraging your child to eat breakfast and lunch, and hydrate throughout the day.

Winter sports start on Monday, November 5, 2018. The following sports will be offered: boys'/girls' basketball, boys'/girls' soccer, and wrestling. Girls' basketball and boys' basketball are available for 6th graders. If your child is planning on participating in a winter sport and has not already turned in a completed physical packet, he/she will need to do so prior to tryouts. We will issue blue cards for winter sports starting Monday, October 29th. Each student going out for a sport will need a blue card that will serve as a ticket to tryouts.

The Sanger Warrior fall sports schedules, as well as more information regarding athletic requirements, can be found on our school website: <http://washington.sanger.k12.ca.us/> For our online calendar, click on ATHLETICS CALENDAR. Schedules are subject to change, so please check the online calendar for the most up to date information. We have also added a "Road Warriors" Travel Directions link for directions to opposing schools!

You can also access the CVAL website at <http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=cval> to check on standings and opposing school information.

Social Emotional Learning

As part of our Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS), WAMS teachers promote students' social and emotional learning through various means. Second Step is a program teachers use weekly to develop students' empathy, emotional management, problem solving, and bullying prevention. We encourage families to also take part in this learning process. We encourage you to try out this month's connection activity! These activities are designed to give your child another chance to use new skills learned in Second Step lessons. They are also a way for you get to know more about what your middle school child is learning with the Second Step program. They are also a great way to spend some fun time together as a family!

Lesson 1, Media Literacy Screen Time: What's Your Interpretation?

What you'll need: DVD player or streaming video, movie, TV

1. Choose a movie that you have at home that is appropriate for children your child's age or younger, and watch a short portion of it with your child.
2. Discuss what each member of your family thought of it (expect answers like babyish, stupid, nice animation, good music, and so on).
3. Next, ask: Did you agree with what other family members thought of the video? Why or why not? If you disagreed, how did you handle the disagreement? Did you listen actively to the other people when they talked? Were you respectful of other people's thoughts, even if they weren't the same as yours?

Upcoming Dates

- August 27 – ASB Petitions Due
- August 27 – Back to School Night
- August 30 – 6th Grade Extravaganza
- August 31 – 7/8th Extravaganza
- September 3 – NO SCHOOL
- September 5 – First Late Start
- September 6 – Club Rush
- September 10 – 6th Grade Cookie Dough \$ Due
- September 11 – ASB Elections Day 1
- September 12 – ASB Elections Day 2
- September 14 – Fall Sports Rally
- September 17 – 6th Grade Camp Session 1
- September 19 – 6th Grade Camp Session 2
- September 24/25 – Picture Day in PE
- September 27 – Watch D.O.G. Kickoff

Important notices

GRADES

Wondering how your child is doing in his/her classes?

Want to check their attendance?

You can do both right now by logging into

POWER SCHOOL

Attendance

Please call attendance if your child is absent, to verify absences, and to pick up your child for appointments. Please remember to bring back a Dr's note. The attendance office number is **524-7131**.

Club Rush

We will be hosting our Club Rush on Thursday, September 6th during the last twenty minutes of all three lunch periods.

What is Club Rush? Club Rush is a time when all of our school clubs will have booths with information and consent forms for their club. You can walk around to each table, learn more about clubs you are interested in, and sign up to join a club.

What do I need? You don't need anything with you that day. Make sure you visit the booths when they are open and get flyers and consent forms for **each** club you want to join.

How do I sign up? Each club advisor will have information about when their club meets, what the requirements are to join, and a copy of the consent form you need filled out. You **MUST** have parent AND advisor consent before attending a club.

ACTIVITIES

ASB Offices

Students wishing to run for Washington Academic Middle School Associated Student Body (ASB) Council positions must fill out a petition and contract, available starting Thursday, August 23rd in the front office, and return it to the front office by **Monday, August 27th, 2017 at 3:30pm**. No petitions will be accepted after 3:30pm. Campaign videos are due **Wednesday, August 29th, 2018**. The positions available are:

President: Must be in 8th grade. Keeping the order of the student organization, encouraging officers, members, and students to take on leadership roles to improve the quality of our school's culture and community. Responsible for meetings and requires strong communication abilities with the advisor, students, staff, and administrators.

Vice President: Must be in 8th grade. Must shadow all of the activities of the council and be prepared to step into the president's role if needed.

Secretary: Can be in 7th or 8th grade. Takes care of meeting attendance, all minutes and correspondences, permanent records, and databases. Must have good phone, writing, and communication skills.

Treasurer: Can be in 7th or 8th grade. Requires taking care of fund raising money, accounts payable, deposits, expenses, and revenues, and **MUST** be familiar with policies in regard to school finance. Works closely with the WAMS Financial Secretary, Ana Rivera.

Activities Commissioner: one 7th and one 8th grader. Responsible for coordinating and maintaining the master calendar for all student body activities including, but not limited to, lunchtime activities, finding supervision, and intramurals.

Athletics Commissioner: Can be 7th or 8th grade (One male and one female). Responsible for assisting the Athletics Director with various athletic responsibilities, including equipment, inventory, and communication with coaches, as well as assist the Activities Commissioner with intramural tournaments. Reports results of previous day's events to the student body.

Grade Level Sports Leader: one per grade. Promotes school spirit through school sports (such as rallies and games) at each of the three grade levels. Attend all meetings and act as delegates of the student body at large. Focused on promoting a positive culture and a community with positive school spirit.

Public Relations Officer: Can be 6th, 7th, or 8th. Responsible for assisting in communicating to the student body. Can include such tasks as: assisting with school wide announcements, assisting with video creations, being the MC at events, etc.

Student Merit Representative: Can be 6th, 7th, or 8th. Acts as the student voice at all school PBIS team meetings and helps assist with student input for our Merit Market. Require attending a monthly meeting before school.

Fire Safety Marshall: Can be 6th, 7th, or 8th. Acts as a liaison between Sanger Fire Department and WAMS. Required to attend a training session to learn more about fire safety and create monthly videos to promote fire safety at the WAMS campus.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS



Albert Gallardo
Vice Principal
Favorite Quote: "Do or do not there is no try"- Yoda



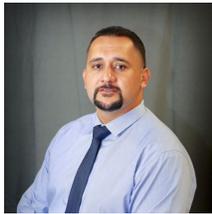
Robert Munoz
School Psychologist
Favorite Quote: "Student for a day, learner for a lifetime."



Jacquelyn Billings
6th Math/Science
Favorite Quote: "Many hands makes for a lighter load"



Anna Jierian
8th ELA
Favorite Quote: "The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones that do" -Albert Einstein



Kazey Quintana
6/7/8 Physical Education
Favorite Quote: "Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."- Maya Angelou



Jason Romero
8th ELA and Drama
Favorite Quote: "How far are you willing to push yourself for success?"



Rene Ruiz
7th Math
Favorite Quote: "Do or do not, there is no try" - Yoda



Alejandro Villarreal
6th Math/Science
Favorite Quote: "Don't count the days, make the days count." -Muhammad Ali



Nancy Lezama
Parent/Student Advocate
Favorite Quote: "When it's time to shine, be the brightest."



Chrissy Rodriguez
Guidance Instructional Specialists-Restorative Justice Program
Favorite Quote: "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." - Hebrews 12:11



Emily Flores
School Psychologist
Favorite Quote: "Everybody is a Genius. But If You Judge a Fish by Its Ability to Climb a Tree, It Will Live Its Whole Life Believing that It is Stupid" -Albert Einstein



Julia Riedelsheimer
6th ELA/Social Studies
Favorite Quote: "One of the things I learned the hard way was that it doesn't pay to get discouraged. Keeping busy and making optimism a way of life can restore your faith in yourself." - Lucille Ball

Yours truly, Yearbook...



There's nothing quite like getting your yearbook! It's the limited-edition collection of our school story this year. Don't let your student miss out on sharing and reliving the big events that will make this year at WAMS so special!

Yearbooks are now on sale for \$40. That's the lowest price of the year!

PLUS... get four FREE ICONS if you choose to pay \$7 for "personalization" (your name inscribed on the cover).

These prices are good if purchased in WAMS' front office or order online JostensYearbook.com