April 13, 2022

Dear WMS 8th Grade Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of another great school year at Westside Middle School. As the parent or guardian of an 8th grade student, the next few months will be a very exciting time for you and your student as we work together to transition your child to high school. The Administration, teachers, and staff of Westside Middle is excited to celebrate these students with our upcoming events, beginning with our 8th Grade Formal. Scheduled for **Friday, April 29th from 6:00-9:00pm**, your student will plan to join us for an evening “Under the Stars.”

Please be sure to read the evening’s requirements, and to reach out to the Westside Middle School Administration if you have questions. Drop off will be in the front of the school at the assigned drop off location, and pick up will be in the back of the school in the bus lane. Arrival is no earlier than 6pm, and pickup is precisely at 9pm.

**Who can attend?** Westside Middle School 8th graders. Students serving In School Suspension (ISS) or Out of School Suspension (OSS) on the day of the event, or who are enrolled at the Barrow County Alternative Education Program (BCAEP) are not permitted to attend.

**What is the dress code?** While this is our 8th grade formal, it is not required that students dress in formal wear. However, please adhere to the following guidelines when choosing attire:

* **Boys:** Dress pants / khaki pants preferred around the waist, preferred belt, collared shirt or button down preferred, no shorts, no hats, no bandanas, no gang related attire
* **Girls:** Dress, skirt, or pantsuit, no shorts, no mid-drift bearing dresses, no plunging neck lines, no complete backless dresses, no halter top dresses, no bandanas, no gang related attire. All dresses must have TWO straps. Dress length must reach at least three finger lengths above the knee, or three inches. Slits in dresses must be the same as dress length. Two-piece dresses cannot be halter like style.

Please note: If a student does not meet the event’s dress code, they will not be allowed to attend. Refunds for tickets will not be given if a student does not meet dress code. The front office is happy to provide approval of dresses with a picture provided by the student or e-mailed from a parent.

**Attendance the day of the formal.**  Students attending the 8th grade formal must be at school for at least half the day. 8:30 am – 11:30 am would be half of the day. Students must be present for at least 4 hours of the day to attend. Attendance will be checked the day of the dance. If your student does not meet this requirement, they will be denied entrance to the formal. No Refund will be given.

**How much will it cost?** Tickets for the 8th Grade Formal are $20 each, which includes dinner, drinks, and snacks at the event. Dinner will be catered by The Master’s Table and will include chicken fingers, green beans, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, dressing with gravy, fruit salad, sweet tea, lemonade, and desserts.

**When will tickets be sold?** Tickets will be sold from February 7th – March 25th. **Only** cash payments will be accepted. Tickets will not be sold at the door on the day of the event. Last call ticket purchase will be on Friday, April 22, 2022.

Finally, as we celebrate the successes of this 8th grade class, it is important to note that this is only the beginning of a journey that will be filled with many other special moments in high school such as Prom, Homecoming, Graduation, and more. Please help us in remembering that this is a middle school event and does not necessitate the same attention or financial resources given to future events. We look forward to sharing all the activities and memories that will come during this time of year for your students.

Sincerely,

Albert Smith, Principal

Westside Middle School