



# THE SABERCAT CHRONICLE

## PARENTS,

As the 2024-2025 school year has come to a close, I would like to express my appreciation for our students and staff! I am so proud of our students and staff for continuing to achieve at high levels and for working hard throughout the year. All grade levels in both Math and English Language Arts were well above state averages and above district averages. As a staff, we continue to reflect on our strengths and our areas of need. We look forward to continued improvement as we prepare for next year.

Our office will reopen on Wednesday, July 23rd. At that time our secretary, bookkeeper, registrar, counselors and administrators will be available to answer your questions. Please log in to Powerschool and be sure to update your account. Even if there are no changes to your information, you will be required to update your account in order to see your student's schedule and complete the registration process. If you have already updated, but there have been changes to your information since your last update, please do so again. If you need assistance with this, you can contact our registrar or come to our school. You are not required to come to the school to complete the registration process, but you are welcome to come if you need assistance or if your student would like to locate their locker and classrooms. The best time to come for assistance with registration will be August 5th and 6th from 8:00 to 12:00 or 1:30 to 3:00 or on August 7th from 1:30 to 3:00. The state of Idaho requires immunization records for all 7th grade students. If immunization records are not provided, we will be unable to register your 7th grader.

Our PTSA has always been such an important part of our school. Our PTSA president is Meghan Saboori. If you are interested in being a part of our PTSA, she can be contacted at [sawtoothsabercatspta@gmail.com](mailto:sawtoothsabercatspta@gmail.com).

For incoming 6th graders and students new to Sawtooth Middle School, New Student Orientation will offer an opportunity to become familiar with our school and some of our staff. Although our office staff, counselors, and administrators will be here, teachers will not. 6th Grade/New Student Orientation will be Thursday, August 7th beginning at 9:00 am. Orientation will begin in the gym with some general information. Afterwards, students will have an opportunity to move through the building to familiarize themselves with the locations of their classrooms and other important areas.

The first day of school for the 2025-2026 school year is Wednesday, August 13th. We look forward to working with you and your student(s). Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,

Kevin Leishman  
Principal



Main Office (208)855-4200

Attendance (208)855-4205

<https://www.westada.org/o/sawtooth>

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## UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

May 23 Last Day of School

August 7 6<sup>th</sup> Grade/New Student Orientation

August 13 First Day of School LATE START

September 7 NO School- All GRADES  
Labor Day

September 16 No School - All GRADES  
Professional Learning Collaboration

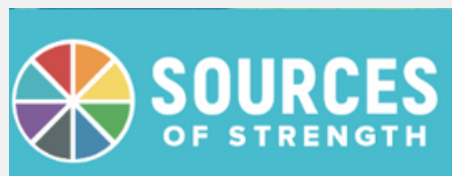
# SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The Sawtooth office will remain open until June 6th, from 8:00 AM - 12 noon and 1:30 - 3:30 PM.

Please visit our website at

<https://www.westada.org/o/sawtooth>.

## COLOR RUN



The 2nd Annual Color Run took place Tuesday, May 20th. Students, families, and staff joined in a one-mile run to commemorate the theme, “What makes me STRONGER!” Big thanks to our Sources of Strength Peer Leaders, Advisors, SMS teachers, and PTSA for their support.



**SOURCES OF STRENGTH PEER LEADERS SHARED, "WHAT MAKES ME STRONGER" WITH STUDENTS AND STAFF.**



# THE SABERCAT CHRONICLE

## Sawtooth Way Award



### READY, RESPONSIBLE, RELIABLE AND RESPECTFUL

The Sawtooth Way Award for 2024-2025 was presented to Pamela Swainston, ELA Department Chair.

Mrs. Swainston brings READINESS to her students everyday, filled with encouragement, enthusiasm, and laughter.

She is RESPONSIBLE for guiding 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and collaborates with our ELA department to exchange innovative ideas that make learning fun.

Both students and staff can RELY on Mrs. Swainston for best practices and advice.

Finally, Mrs. Swainston is RESPECTFUL to students and staff.

Thank you Pam for sharing your love of teaching and learning and for serving as a wonderful example of the Sawtooth Way!



**WEST ADA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEER CLINIC**

**JULY 26, 2025**

**AT OWYHEE HIGH SCHOOL**

9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM  
PERFORMANCE FOR PARENTS AT 3:30 PM

**\$75 PER PARTICIPANT**

Work with your coach, your teammates and high school cheerleaders and coaches to improve cheer skills, stunting and performance!

**All West Ada Middle School cheer athletes are encouraged to sign up!**

**Registration is open until July 11th!**  
(Late registrations received after July 11th are not guaranteed a t-shirt.)

Bring own sack lunch and a refillable waterbottle.

West Ada Middle School Summer Cheer Clinic Registration

**Three ways to Pay\*:**

- Cash - hand deliver
- Check
- Online - link found at end of registration form

**Checks payable to:**  
Middle School Cheer Clinic  
\*put name of student in memo line!\*

**Mail or hand deliver to:**  
West Ada School District Cheer Clinic  
Attn: Lisa Hahle  
1303 E. Central Drive  
Meridian, ID 83642

\*proceeds after expenses are given back to our West Ada cheer programs!

If you have any musical instruments that are not being used, kindly think about donating them to the Sawtooth Band and Orchestra program!



# SMS SPANISH CLASSES

## Spanish I in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade?

Sawtooth Middle School offers High School Spanish for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students!

It is a year-long course that covers the same topics as Spanish I in High School and allows students to earn a high school credit for each semester with a C or better!

### Why Spanish in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- The sooner students start learning a language, the easier it often is for them.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Spanish I students have more help available to them than high school students.
- Free up electives in high school.
- Be able to take up through Spanish 5 in high school and/or earn a Seal of Biliteracy on your High School Diploma! Visit the State Board of Education for more information.
- Some colleges, like BSU, will give you a special diploma for reaching a certain proficiency level in language.
- Learn to communicate with twice as many people as you can now.
- Food Fiestas! Celebrations with food from Spanish-speaking countries.

If your son or daughter is willing to put in a little hard work, she/he can take first year Spanish in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade and earn high school credits.

To sign up for Spanish I, email 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor, Mrs. Barrett at [Barrett.Kori@westada.org](mailto:Barrett.Kori@westada.org)



## WHAT DO 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS LEARN IN EXPLORATORY SPANISH?

Exploratory Spanish is a 9-week class in which students learn some beginning Spanish phrases. This includes:

- |   |           |                     |
|---|-----------|---------------------|
| • Alphabet  | • Body    | • Days/Months/Dates |
| • Classroom Items   | • Colors  | • Seasons/Weather   |
| • Greetings   | • Numbers |                     |
| • Location, cultures, current events and food of 21 Spanish-speaking countries. |           |                     |



WE ALSO PLAN TO HAVE FOOD FIESTA AT THE END OF THE QUARTER!

*\*olé!*



# SAWTOOTH LIBRARY AND MEDIA CENTER

Encouraging lifelong, LEARNING, CURIOSITY, and INQUIRY for all Library Patrons

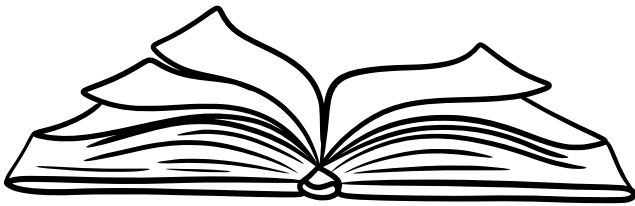
# 7,221

Total Book Checkouts August 16-May 2025

## SAWTOOTH LIBRARY WEBSITE

Check the Sawtooth Library site  
for online research databases, SORA  
eBooks and audiobooks.

Login through Rapid Identity  
using your West Ada issued  
Username and Password



## Top Authors

Suzanne Collins

R.J. Palacio

Jeff Kinney

Richard Paul Evans

Alan Gratz

STUDENTS/STAFF TO PARTICIPATE IN WEST ADA'S LITERARY GAMES



# 12

The West Ada Literary Games open to student (Grades 6-12) and staff is an annual reading competition for readers.

Participants choose books within challenge levels by reading either 10 (Bronze Tier), 20 (Silver Tier) or 30 (Gold Tier) books by April 1. Readers choose books from 35 different categories of books, keeping a journal to summarize, review, and rate.

## PARTICIPANTS IN IDAHO BATTLE OF THE BOOKS



Idaho Battle of the Book (IBOB) is a statewide voluntary reading motivation and comprehension program open to all Idaho students in grades 4-12 with the mission to encourage and recognize students who enjoy reading, share the love of reading with students who have not yet discovered that for themselves, broaden reading interests, increase reading comprehension, promote academic excellence, and promote cooperative learning and teamwork among students.



# WHAT WOULD YOU TELL YOUR 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SELF?

As students completed end-of-year projects, submitted final assignments, prepared for the eighth-grade celebration, and assemblies- we asked,

“What are your words of wisdom to our new 6<sup>th</sup> grade students?”

- Get involved in a club, school athletics, music, band or choir
- Participate in school activities such as assemblies and school dances
- Make sure to get plenty of rest
- Stay informed! Our daily announcements are published each day on the Sawtooth Website  
<https://www.westada.org/o/sawtooth>

## Social Media



@Sawtooth Middle School and



@sawtooth\_mediacenter

Sawtooth's Student  
Council gathered  
advice from students  
and teachers to share  
with our upcoming  
Sabercats



*Advice to our new Sabercats*

*from Sawtooth Student Council 2024-2025*

