

Aldo Leopold's Very Special "Specials" Newsletter

Gretchen Berger:

K-8 Music Teacher



My name is Gretchen Berger and I am happy to be back teaching choral and general music this year at Aldo Leopold. I have my B.A. in Pre K -12 Music and a Master's Degree in Pre K – 12 School Counseling. I am proud to be starting my 21st year teaching at Aldo Leopold Community School and I look forward to all of the special opportunities this school year will bring.

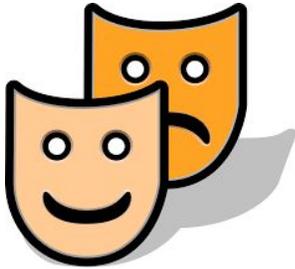
Part of my classroom Learning Expectations is to implement the ALDO Way. This is a universal expectation that students will experience in every part of our building and classrooms. There will be specific expectations and responsibilities when it comes to participating in the music room. We respect one another's learning and participate to our fullest potential in class activities. If an issue arises in class it is handled swiftly and safely. As part of my Behavioral Expectations in music, I use Love & Logic techniques to help students solve their problems to the best of their abilities without creating a problem for others. If they are not able to do this, I am always there to help assist them in their problem solving. Restorative practices are also a part of my class routine. It is important to make all children feel they are heard and are accepted within the group no matter what situation may arise.

Communication is very important to me and making sure that any pertinent information gets to you in a timely fashion. I always check with the homeroom teacher to see if you, as the parent, have specified a way that you prefer to be contacted. I am happy to reach out to you by phone, email, before school drop off or after school pick up. I will try to honor your request and get you any information needed about your child in a timely manner. If you have any questions you can reach me at glberger@gbaps.org or you can call the office (920) 448-2140. I am available most days before and after school if you need to speak to me in person.

Looking forward to a great year!

Musically yours,

Gretchen



Welcome to Theater Class! (Scott Ronsmans)

Theatre class has gotten off to a great start this year! The 6th graders have been learning terminology, stage directions, and a little bit about theatre history. They have been learning a performance piece and are also working on improvisation scenes.

The 7/8 class is learning a performance piece to the Wham! classic "Wake Me Up Before You Go Go" and developing their ability to discuss their theatrical likes and dislikes with an intelligent language. They are also very busy writing monologues that they are preparing for their showcase.

Welcome back to another year filled with Art!

Thank you to all parents who donated art supplies from the supply list! I am so grateful. I'm excited to be able to again teach 1-8th grade art at Aldo Leopold. Getting to know your students is the best part of my job.

I want to teach your students to learn studio habits of an artist such as developing skills, envisioning their work, expressing themselves, engaging and persisting, observation skills, stretching and exploring, understanding art worlds, and reflecting on their work. We learn different skills, learn about the ingredients that go into a good work of art, and look at artists from the past and present.

I expect students to be responsible by active listening, and cleaning up. Students need to be ready to try new things, and stay on task. We have a lot of fun! Check the back of artwork coming home for information on what we learned.

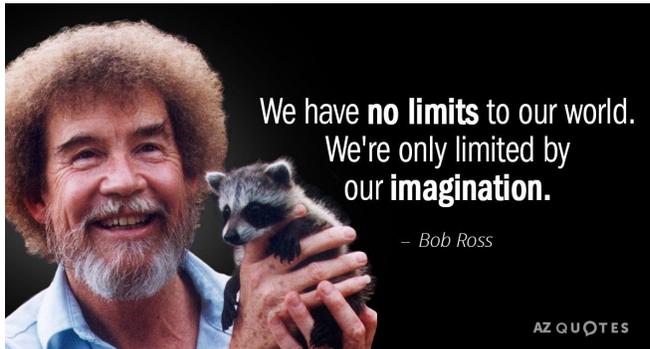
We have a Spring Art show each year. Each student in art class creates a work of art that is framed and on display. Parents may buy the framed piece and a part of the cost comes back to the school program. Another element to this fun night is professional artists who display

their work also. If you are a part of the Aldo Community and would like to display your work, please let me know.

Please feel free to reach me at smtlachac@gbaps.org.

Sincerely,

Sara Tlachac, visual arts educator



Physical Education News



Hello from the PE Dept! It's so exciting to be back at school! Hope everyone had a great summer! I am really looking forward to working with all the kids this year. Middle School parents be sure to take a look at the PE expectations and Rubric for this year. Can't wait to get started and get moving!

ALDO LEOPOLD SCHOOL

PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXPECTATIONS

PURPOSE:

The goal of Physical Education is not to evaluate who is a good athlete, rather the purpose of Physical Education is to teach students to value movement and exercise, and teach them the skills they need to live healthy active lifestyles. It is a fact that students who exercise on a regular basis do better in their other class. Teaching students to be physically active not only will improve student health but also positively affect all other areas of their lives.

CONTENT:

In this class we will evaluate fitness levels and continually work to improve them. In this class we will compete in team sports, working on teamwork, athletic skills, and healthy competition. In this class we will learn and practice life-long movement activities and games that students can utilize to lead healthy active lifestyles for the rest of their lives.

DRESS CODE / HYGIENE:

Each day the students will be required to change into clothes **other than those worn to school that day** for class. During class we will be physically active and the students will sweat. Personal hygiene is a part of a student's maturation process. Each day the students will be given plenty of time to go into the locker room to clean up and change into clean dry clothes to get ready for their next class (deodorant is recommended!!). WE DO NOT WANT KIDS SITTING IN SWEATY, STINKY CLOTHES FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.....PUGH! Shorts, sweat pants, wind pants are all acceptable, (no jeans!). T-shirts and sweatshirts are also acceptable. Tank-tops, and cut-offs are discouraged. Shorts and pants must be worn so **no underwear is exposed!** Shirts must cover waist at all times. IF ANYTHING IS SEEN AS INAPPROPRIATE THE STUDENTS WILL BE ASKED TO CHANGE AT THE TEACHERS DISGRESSION.

For safety reasons students will also be required to bring tennis shoes for class. Sandals, flip-flops, boots, loose fitting slippers will not be allowed. The majority of our activities will involve running and movement, so to prevent injury we ask that the students wear shoes. (preferably with laces!) All jewelry should be removed before class.

ASSESSMENT:

A. Each day the students will be able to earn **5 possible points**.

Students will be assessed on the following criteria:

1. **Preparedness/ Attitude:** Physical education is a class in which the student's attendance is essential to their grade. The students are expected each day to arrive to class on time, and change into PE clothes. If a student misses a class due to an excused absence they will have the opportunity to make that class up and receive full credit. Unexcused absences cannot be made up. Failure to change close for class will result in the loss of points. Each day the students will also be assessed on their attitude in class. Students are expected to come to class with ready to work mentality and are also to treat everyone with respect, both classmates and teachers.
2. **Effort:** Each day the students are expected to give their best effort in class. This includes; self-motivation, encouraging others, committing to improving personal fitness, and spending the majority of class in their Target Heart Rate Zone. If a student gives full effort in the

activity, they will receive the full amount of points. STUDENTS ARE NOT GRADED ON ATHLETIC ABILITY!

3. Participation: Each day the students are expected to display a high level of participation, quality movement during activity, and an understanding or willingness to learn skills and strategies. They are expected to stay on task, and play fairly.

LOCKER ROOM SECURITY:

Each student will receive a locker where they can lock their clothes during class. Students will be responsible for providing their own **Master V-58** lock. **PLEASE DO NOT BRING VALUABLES INTO THE LOCKER ROOM!!!** Each year students get valuables stolen out of the locker room because they forget to lock their lockers. To prevent this do not bring them into the locker room. Sharing lockers is not permitted.

BEHAVIOR:

Students are expected to be on time to class. Swearing, obscene gestures, or put downs will not be allowed in class. Bullying or intimidating is not tolerated; it is your duty to report this to a teacher if you witness it. Anyone who cannot abide by these rules will be asked to leave the class. **EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO FEEL SAFE AND BE TREATED WITH RESPECT!!!!** At the end of class students may leave when dismissed by the teacher.

PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS / INJURIES:

Any injuries or limitations (i.e.: asthma, bee allergies, ect.) should be brought to the teacher's attention. **If a student is not able to participate in class, a signed note from a parent or guardian is required. A WRITTEN MEDICAL EXCUSE FROM DOCTOR IS REQUIRED IF A STUDENT CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN CLASS FOR THREE OR MORE CONSECUTIVE CLASS PERIODS.** A student without a doctor or parent note will be expected to participate.

FINALLY!!!!!!

Physical Education is a life-long process, which has its beginning in the home. It is essential that we work together to help our youth to value life-long activity and learn how to lead healthy lives.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please contact me at your earliest convenience. I also would like you and your child to sign this letter and return it to me to validate that you both understand the Expectations of Physical Education. THANK YOU!

Grading Rubric for Aldo Leopold Middle School Physical Education

For each PE class students receive a number grade on a scale of 0-5. With 5 being the ideal score and 0 being the lowest score. Scores are used to determine each student's grade. There

are three (3) main areas that are covered by the daily grading rubric: participation/effort/attitude. Each area is clearly described below.

<p>(5) Student work is beyond expectations.</p>	<p>Gives top effort daily. Self motivated.</p> <p>Encourages others. Committed to improving personal fitness. Spend the majority of class in Target Heart Rate Zone</p>	<p>High level of participation. Always displays quality movement during activity. Excellent understanding of skills and strategies. Stays on task. Plays fairly.</p>	<p>Shows respect to classmates. Encourages others to improve. Consistently demonstrates a positive attitude and good sportsmanship. Works well with others. Always comes to class on time. Always changes for class</p>
<p>(4) Student work meets expectations.</p>	<p>Consistently follows rules.</p> <p>Consistently displays daily effort, cooperation and works hard.</p> <p>Consistently in Target Heart Rate Zone.</p>	<p>Good level of participation. Displays quality movement during activity. Demonstrates basic skills and strategies of games with ease.</p>	<p>Demonstrates positive attitude and often encourages other students. Always demonstrates good sportsmanship. . Comes to class on time. Changes for class</p>

<p>(3) Student work nearly meets described standards</p>	<p>Inconsistently follows rules. Puts forth minimum effort. Does not work hard enough to improve fitness level. Inconsistently reaches Target Heart Rate Zone</p>	<p>Needs some reminders to participate. On task most of the time. Performs most skills and game strategies at a satisfactory level.</p>	<p>Inconsistently demonstrates positive attitude and sportsmanship. Occasionally tardy to class.</p> <p>Occasionally does not change for class.</p>
<p>(1-2) Student work does not meet expectations.</p>	<p>Puts for minimum effort. Contributes little to the activity. Inconsistently follows the rules. Does not work hard to improve personal fitness level. Rarely in Target Heart Rate Zone</p>	<p>Uncooperative at times. Talks when directions are being given. Displays poor understanding of basic skills and game strategy. Reminders to stay on task.</p>	<p>Sometimes disruptive. Very little encouragement to classmates. Argues during activity. Does not demonstrate positive sportsmanship. (Negative at times.)</p> <p>Consistently Tardy. Consistently does not change for class.</p>

<p>(0)-Student work is unacceptable.</p>	<p>Uncooperative. Poor effort. Little or no movement during activities. Never reaches Target Heart Rate Zone</p>	<p>Insufficient knowledge of rules and game strategies with no attempt to learn them. Bends rules to suit self. Doesn't follow the rules. Avoids participation. Complains about the task.</p>	<p>Disruptive. Interrupts teacher when talking. Generally not involved. May ask inappropriate questions. Poor sportsmanship. Displays poor attitude towards activity. Always Tardy.</p> <p>Never changes for class.</p>
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From the LMC (Library Media Center)



Kindergarten students will be learning book care, and how to use shelf markers in order to begin book check-out.

The Primary classes(1-2) are checking out books, then they have Kelly for guidance. This is a six week rotation and after six weeks,they will spend the entire time in the LMC learning library skills, computer use, and the Responsible Use Policy along with book checkout.

Grades three, four and five will be reviewing/learning how to use Follett Destiny to locate books in the Library.

Middle School students can enjoy checking out books.



Welcome back to another awesome year of learning Spanish! We're already off to a fabulous start!

If you're new to Aldo, welcome! I'm Nelda Arredondo-Parker, the Spanish teacher, for kids K-5 and grades 7 and 8 as electives. We're so fortunate here to have a chance for EVERYONE at Aldo to take Spanish during grades K-5, and then the choice to take Spanish 1 and 2 for high school credit while in grades 7 and 8. We work hard, but we have a lot of fun! If you would like to come and say Hola!, you'll find us in room 128. I can always be reached by phone here at school at extension 128, and of course, email is always an option, NArredondo-Parker@gbaps.org.

In grades K-5, we continue to focus on learning to talk about ourselves---our likes, dislikes, describing ourselves and families and pets--as well as learning to ask and answer questions, read simple texts, and of course, sing songs and laugh. In middle school, we continue to follow the district curriculum using the Avancemos series of textbooks while focusing on a Comprehensible Input/TPRS model of instruction.

Anna and I are both so excited for the new school year! Be sure to stop in or send along any questions you have. We love to hear from families!

Nelda Arredondo-Parker, Spanish teacher
Anna Shallue--Spanish student teacher



Hi and welcome to the new school year!! I am Kelly Hutchison-Wardlow, the School Counselor! I am here to help ALL students be successful socially, emotionally and behaviorally so they may access their education without barriers. I am starting my 14th year at Aldo and am so grateful to be a part of this community!

Here's what I do at our school:

Individual Counseling

If a child needs some time to talk, for whatever reason, they can let their teacher know and come to my office. I have a welcoming environment with comfortable chairs, stuffed animals, games and art supplies. Within in the past two weeks, all K-5 students had the opportunity to play in my office with their class, so they know where I am!

Group Counseling

I facilitate small groups for students who need extra support in a certain area. Groups will begin mid October. In the past I have facilitated groups for anxiety, friendship issues, social skills, and dealing with family changes. If you feel your child will benefit from this group **or any other**, please feel free to email me at kkhutchison-wardlow@gbaps.org

Classroom Guidance

I visit all grades teaching social-emotional skills such as feelings, communication, problem-solving, self advocacy and respect. The first three weeks of September has been all about inviting classrooms into my office. I discussed my role as a school counselor and let them know my office is a place where they can feel safe to discuss difficulties they may be experiencing. For classroom guidance, we will be covering topics related to positive mindset (I can't do it - YET), communication and feeling valued, kindness and its effects on others and self compassion.

Consultation

I am available to meet/talk with teachers, staff and parents to help support students and provide resources for education about issues affecting children.

Counseling Opportunity for your child...

Through collaboration with the Green Bay School District, Foundations Health and Wholeness, Inc., is pleased to offer mental health counseling within Aldo Leopold School. Foundations works to provide quality mental health counseling, and our focus is in seeking solutions for mind and spirit. Foundations commits to providing quality services to all clients, without restriction to ability to pay. Our organization is one of only a few providers in the community who accept Medicare, Wisconsin Medicaid, and offers payment assistance. Once a week, a master's level licensed counselor from Foundations will be scheduling time at Aldo Leopold to see children in need of mental health counseling who are experiencing barriers to accessing traditional mental health services at community outpatient clinics. **If you are interested to learn more about this service, please contact me at kkhutchison-wardlow@gbaps.org.**

October News - Secondary Music

In October, students are focusing on learning or refining basic technique for singing and playing. Each group has begun goal-setting for bi-weekly assessments, and are encouraged to push themselves!

Beginning band and orchestra students have just begun making first sounds, as well as learning how to function as part of an ensemble. Encourage your young students to show you what they have learned so far - they make great teachers! Goals include mastering first notes, demonstrating good posture, and analyzing their important role in the group.

All students are also focusing on working together in sections. Students in band and orchestra work together to solve their musical questions in sectionals before coming back together as a full group. Choir students are using their previous knowledge of solfege symbols to learn their music in new ways, combining visual and aural learning. Goals include learning new and difficult rhythms, singing with proper vowel-sounds, and performing independently.

CHAMPS for Aldo Music

A Quick Guide

- a. **C - Conversation:** You may talk to each other when...
 - i. Entering the room and putting your instrument together/grabbing music
 - ii. During constructive conversation time
 - iii. Facilitating sectionals and participating in sectionals
 - iv. Special circumstances
- b. **H - Help:** To get your questions answered...
 - i. **DURING REHEARSAL:** Write your question on a piece of paper. When Shahnnon asks “are there any questions?” raise your hand to ask your question.
 - ii. **DURING SECTIONALS:** Ask others in your section for the answer first. If the group has the same question, find Shahnnon to ask.
- c. **A - Activity:** There are two main activities in the music room...
 - i. Large Group Rehearsal: We meet together as a full ensemble and work together to solve musical problems.

- ii. Sectionals: You work together in small groups by instrument to solve musical problems.
- iii. Occasionally, separate activities will be facilitated by Shahnnon.
- d. **M - Movement**: Here is when you can move from your seat...
 - i. DURING REHEARSAL: during short breaks, you may sharpen your pencil or ask to use the bathroom. You may also grab materials you may have forgotten to take to your seat.
 - ii. DURING SECTIONALS: stay with your sectional until the end of rehearsal. If a bathroom break is needed, find Shahnnon to ask to go.
- e. **P - Participation**: Here's how to make sure you are participating fully...
 - i. DURING REHEARSAL: Stay focused on the task at hand. While Shahnnon gives directions, stay present and apply the instruction to you.
 - ii. DURING SECTIONALS: Play your instrument, whether you are leading instruction or playing in the section. Ask any questions that come to mind. Stay focused on personal and class goals.
- f. **S - Success**: How will I know this is working...
 - i. Class will run smoothly; you and your peers will be working together to progress in music at an appropriate pace.