

# WMS NEWS



## *From the Principal's Desk:*

We hope everyone had a wonderful and restful holiday break! As we settle back into our routines, we have a few important upcoming dates to share.

The Middle School Ski Trip will take place on January 23rd. Additional information and permission details are available in the main office. An email has also been sent to all WMS families.

Please note that January 14th will be a Middle School VAC Day. Students who have all of their assignments turned in and who have demonstrated positive behavior choices throughout the month will be recognized with a special reward. Eligible students will earn one hour at the VAC, where they can enjoy games and spend time with their peers.

The Parent Pulse Group will meet next week on January 15th at 4:00 PM in the middle school cafeteria. The main focus of this meeting will be planning an upcoming student event in February. If you have ideas on how to make this a fun and engaging night for students, we encourage you to join us!

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to a great start to the new year.

Have a great weekend.

Craig Thompson  
WMS Principal

## WMS Believes...

1. Students must feel safe, cared for, and valued for learning to take place.
2. It's our job to spark student curiosity and help students identify/pursue their interests.
3. Students thrive on intentional structure.
4. School decisions should reflect the distinctive nature of middle school students.

## *Advisory Theme of the Month:*

Our advisory focus for January is '**Back to Basics.**' Throughout the month, we will revisit our core VIKES expectations across all areas of the building. In addition to reinforcing positive behavior, students will engage in dynamic classroom lessons designed to strengthen their peer conflict resolution skills.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade News:

**Science** - We are finishing up our study of Biology. We will review this week, then have a quiz over the body systems research we have been doing. The Unit Test will be the week of 1/19. Our next unit will be The Universe!

**Geography** - In sixth grade, Geography students are completing their study of Government. Our next unit of study will focus on North America, Canada, and Mexico. The students will “zoom” in on each country and study their landscape, location, and culture. We will then compare the cultures to the others we have studied so far this school year. Please look for an assessment in early February!

**Math** - We started unit 4 Dividing Fractions. We also completed the mid-year math NWEA testing.

**English-** The Compare and Contrast Essay that compares the Lotus Hotel scene in the Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief novel and movie has been completed and is in the process of being graded. 6th-grade English students are moving into a new unit of study. We will read The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, a narrative nonfiction book written by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. Students will learn about the design thinking process and how that process can help people solve critical problems in their communities, as William Kamkwamba did in his African village.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade News:

**World History-**

Our 7th grade students are continuing to learn about Ancient Greece. We are learning about Alexander the Great and the empire during that time period. We are also learning about how the culture of Greece played a pivotal role in their time.

**Science-**

Mr. Huizenga’s Science classes wrapped up our Energy unit by reviewing what we’ve learned and completing an assessment on motion, forces, and energy. Students worked hard and showed great effort. Next, we’re excited to begin a new unit on waves, where students will explore different types of waves, wave interactions, and discover their unique characteristics.

**Math-**

Math classes are presently finishing up Unit 4, Proportional Relationships and Percentages. Students will have an assessment for Unit 4 the end of next week or the beginning of the following week. Afterwards we will begin Unit 5, Operations with Positive and Negative Numbers.

**English–**

The English classes jumped right back into our study of epidemics. We’re finishing our study of cholera, Dr. John Snow, and the “shoe-leather” method that is still used today, and beginning our investigations of the 1906 Typhoid Outbreak on Oyster Bay (Hello, Typhoid Mary!)

Ms. Feenstra’s Class:

**ELA** - Students will perform the Lorax readers' theater on January 15th at 9:30 in Ms. Feenstra’s room and give their presentation on the new butterfly gardens.

**Social Studies/Science-** We have started a new solar system unit.

**Math-** We are working through topics connected to the solar system and math. This week, we will be working on telling time, elapsed time, and creating schedules.

**Viking Express-** We will be running the Hot Chocolate Express on Thursdays during the month of January to raise money for PBIS rewards. Hot Chocolate will be sold for \$2.00.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade News:

**United States History-** Over the next few weeks, we will finish up our unit on Westward Expansion and begin a new unit on Social Reformers. We will have a QUIZ on Friday, January 9th.

**English-** Miss Martin’s students are finishing the novel, Summer of the Mariposas. Christensen’s students are preparing to showcase their knowledge of objective summaries.

**Math-** The Math 8 students are working on solving linear equations. There will be a sub-unit quiz this upcoming Tuesday. We will be working our way through this unit for 2-3 more weeks.

**Algebra-**The algebra students are preparing for their final exam. This will take place on 1/13 and 1/14 and it will be 15% of their final semester grade. After that, we will cover Scientific Notation and then begin unit 5 on Systems of Equations.

**Science-**  
Students are using their knowledge of fossils to help understand the Geologic Time Scale. As they take time to learn about the past, it may give us a better understanding of what we can do today to enhance our current time Epoch  
Students are putting together Geologic Time Scale presentations for their class  
Students in Ms. Tate's classes are finishing up a unit on plate tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanoes, and will then switch to Earth history  
All missing science work/extra credit is due on **Wed. Jan 14th**

Electives News:

**Spotlight on Choir-**  
The WMS Choir program has been jumping back into singing this week as we start to prepare for Choral Festival in March. There was a discrepancy with the Choir Handbook and the date for the Pre-Festival Concert should have read March 17th (not March 5th as listed). Please note this in your calendars. The students will be called at 6pm and the concert will begin at 6:30 on March 17th. Apologies for the miscommunication!

**Athletics:**  
**Volleyball:**  
-VolleyVikes volleyball league is back! Any 4th-6th grader interested in playing volleyball this winter is invited to grab an informational sheet in the office. Practices and games against other league schools will begin January 28<sup>th</sup>

**Soccer:**  
-Attention Soccer players: Viking Academy is back!!! This is a great opportunity to get some touches on the ball while working on skills, drills, and light conditioning. The Viking Academy is on Wednesday evenings from 6-7 (girls) and 7-8 (boys), and is open to all students in 6th-12th grades. Please wear turf shoes or sneakers, no outdoor cleats.

**Competitive Cheer:**  
Jan 12, 5:00 PM, vs. Hart Middle School with 6 others @ Nellie B. Chisholm Middle School  
Jan 20, 5:00 PM, vs. Fremont Middle School with 11 others @ Ludington Elementary School

**Clubs:**

**Yoga Club** - Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00 in Mrs. Gripton's classroom  
Starting January 14th and running for 6 weeks.  
All students are welcome to join and learn basic yoga poses, practice mindfulness, improve flexibility, strength and balance while having some fun!  
Wear comfortable clothes, bring your own mat or borrow one from us.

**Art Club**-Art Club will start on Thursday, January 15th, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. after school in Mrs. Spicer's art classroom (Room #5). The club will run for 6 weeks, with our last session ending on February 26th. (There will be no session on the 19th due to winter break.)

This is an after-school club open to all students who attend Whitehall Middle School and have an interest in developing their art skills. This will offer students open studio time for personal projects. Artists will also create and design their own sketchbooks.

Please make arrangements for your own transportation prior to the day of the session.  
Hope to see you there!

**VIKINGS FIRST Super Fan Tailgate Dinner:**

The Vikings First Athletic Boosters in conjunction with the Whitehall Athletic Department would like to formally invite you to attend the third annual VIKINGS FIRST Super Fan Tailgate dinner on January 31st, 2026. The Super Fan Tailgate event is the second in a series of three fundraising events that are being used to offset the cost for all student athletes within our athletic programs. If you would like more information, please contact the Viking Athletic Center at 231-893-1010

The cost for attendance is \$25 per person. There will be silent auction items, food, fun and great people to spend a night away with.

Date: January 31st, 2026

Location: Whitehall American Legion Post 69; 803 E. Colby St, Whitehall, MI 49461

Time: Social Hour 6-7 pm; Program begins at 7pm.

Cost: \$25 per person

Raffle Ticket Link:  
<https://vikingstore.shopsettings.com/VIKINGS-1ST-RAFFLE-TICKETS-p774862019>

Dinner Ticket Link:  
<https://vikingstore.shopsettings.com/SUPERFAN-TAILGATE-DINNER-TICKETS-p620316577>