

WMS NEWS

From the Principal’s Desk:

Dear Whitehall Middle School Families,

I hope you and your family are enjoying the start of fall. It’s been a great start to the school year, and we’re excited to keep the momentum going with some important events and opportunities coming up!

Parent Pulse – Get Involved!

We’re excited to introduce a new parent group called Parent Pulse — a space for parents to connect, share feedback, and collaborate with school leadership in order to create opportunities for our middle school students. The first Parent Pulse meeting will take place in November (date coming soon). If you’re interested in receiving more information about upcoming meetings and how to get involved, please complete the interest form linked below:

 <https://forms.gle/cXMzt5h6baotDL6J7>

Choir Workshop – This Tuesday!

Just a reminder: On Tuesday, October 7th, our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade choirs will be attending the MSVMA Middle School SING workshop at Reeths-Puffer High School. Details about the event have been shared with choir families via email. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Garvey directly.

Parent-Teacher Conferences – Drop-In Style

Mark your calendars! Our Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences are coming up on:

- Tuesday, October 28th, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- Thursday, October 30th, 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM

These conferences will be held in a drop-in style, so no appointment is necessary. Please stop by during the scheduled times to meet with your child’s teachers, hear about their progress, and discuss ways we can support their continued success.

Please note that due to the drop-in format, there may be short wait times depending on attendance. If a teacher is unavailable when you arrive, or if more time is needed for a conversation, we are happy to schedule a follow-up phone call or meeting at a later date to ensure everyone has the opportunity to connect.

We look forward to seeing you and working together to support your student!

The Shoe Club - 7th & 8th Grade

We’re excited to share a new opportunity for 7th and 8th-grade students! Ms. Tate is launching a new student club called The Shoe Club. To learn more about the purpose of the club, meeting details, and how students can get involved. Please have your student stop by the office for more information.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend!
Go Vikes!

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.

6th Grade News:

Geography:

Students explored a 3D weather globe and examined the weather around the world. They demonstrated their knowledge by taking their first Geography quiz, and we’ll be studying Human Environment and Interaction in the upcoming weeks!

Science:

We are beginning our study of graphing data.

Math:

Classes are studying Area & Surface Area. They are learning to calculate areas of polygons by decomposing, rearranging, enclosing, and composing shapes. They are also representing polyhedral with nets and calculating their surface areas. Our first test is scheduled on Tuesday, October 7th.

ELA:

Students are continuing their book study of Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief. We are analyzing figurative language to determine both literal and figurative meanings and observing how this type of language enhances written works. At the same time, we are working to utilize both sentence-level and word-level context clues to determine the meanings of unfamiliar words. The mid-unit assessment is coming up!

Ms. Feenstra’s Class

ELA and Science:

We presented our butterfly garden action plan to Mr. Thompson for approval and will begin our work to restore the current butterfly garden and add to additional areas around the school. We will also begin our Lorax readers' theater and communicate show dates soon.

Math:

We have been focusing on fractions seen in real-world situations, along with creating and interpreting bar graphs.

Social studies:

We finished our transition plan slide shows and will be presenting at parent-teacher conferences. A sign-up genius will be sent out this weekend to schedule conference times.

Viking Express: The first Viking Express last month was a huge success. The students all did a great setting up, selling, and communicating with customers. We were able to buy more items for our school-wide PBIS store. Our next Viking Express will be open on October 24th.

8th Grade News:

ELA:

Students are finishing *The Odyssey*. They are then working on a one-pager that discusses the critical character traits that helped Odysseus complete his epic journey.

Math 8:

The students just finished up Unit 1 this week and have started Unit 2 - Dilations, Similarity, and Slope, the past couple of days. There will be a quiz towards the end of next week.

Algebra:

Students have started unit 2, Linear Equations and Inequalities. There will be a quiz near the end of next week.

U.S. History:

Over the next few weeks, we will learn about the American Revolutionary War. Our next unit QUIZ will be on Friday, October 10th.

Science:

We just attended our first field trip at the Little Manistee Weir. Students learned about the salmon population in Michigan and how the DNR helps maintain a healthy fishery through population monitoring and stocking.

We are beginning our water cycle unit as we dive into what makes our Great Lakes watershed so valuable.

7th Grade News:

Math: Math classes have started with Unit 2, “An Introduction to Proportional Relationships.” We will be looking at tables and graphs for proportional relationships over the next two weeks and how this concept is used in real world problems. The final assessment for this unit will be in approximately two weeks.

Science: Mr. Huizenga’s Science Classes will wrap up the first section of their motion unit next week. This section will be capped off with another visit to the VAC to test Momentum, some research on jobs that use Motion, and their first big Assessment.

ELA: In English, we’re continuing our study of The Lost Children of Sudan. Students are looking at ways the author is developing the theme throughout the chapters of our novel, *A Long Walk to Water*.


World History: Students are currently learning about Mesopotamia and the different empires of that time period. We will also be learning about Egypt in the next few weeks. We will have a quiz during the week of October 21st.


ELECTIVE NEWS

SPOTLIGHT ON CHOIR

The WMS Choirs (6th, 7th & 8th) are heading to Reeths-Puffer High School on October 7th to participate in MSVMA (Michigan School Vocal Music Association) Middle School Workshop day! We have been preparing the same song as several other middle school choirs across West Michigan and we will be coming together to work with Byron Center MS choir teacher Aaron Goodyke on that song and others. This is a great opportunity for WMS Choir students to learn from a well respected conductor and sing with other students in the area!

Library News

Library Card Challenge = Huge Success! 

25% of our challengers got brand-new library cards from their local libraries!  Students were all smiles as they received their prizes (delivered right to their classrooms!) — it was a huge success! A BIG thank you to our amazing community partners for donating prizes and supporting our readers: Sassy Cat Coffee, Pitkins, Hanson Hill Waterfront Grill, Nuveen Arts Center, North Grove, Bone Ends, The Book Nook & Java Shop, White Lake Nutrition, Pekadils, Muskegon Luge Adventure Sports Park, Gary's Restaurant, Salon Peggy Sue, Reverend Leighton Seys, Lincoln Golf Club, and Hickory Knoll Golf Course.

 New cards, new adventures for our Vikings! 

Athletics

Winter Golf Sim League will start on November 3rd in the VAC golf room. High school/middle school boys who are signed up for golf in Final Forms will be able to use the room on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3-5. High school/middle school girls who are signed up for golf in Final Forms will be able to use the golf room on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-5. Winter Golf will run every school day, Monday - Thursday. If the golf room is not available, information will be sent through Final Forms. The last scheduled day for winter golf will be March 5th. The Spring golf season starts on March 9th for high school boys and April 13th for middle school boys and girls.

Students may sign up for Final Forms at: <https://whitehall-mi.finalforms.com>

Thank you,

Jim Hams