

WMS NEWS

From the Principal’s Desk:

Dear WMS Families,
Our students have been working hard, and we’re proud of the growth we’ve seen in these first few months of the school year. Below are some important updates and upcoming events to keep on your radar.

Fall Break Reminder

Fall Break begins on **Friday, October 17, 2025**.
Students will return to school on **Tuesday, October 21, 2025**.
We hope your family enjoys a restful and safe break!

Parent Pulse – Get Involved!

We’re thrilled to launch a new parent group called Parent Pulse — a space for parents to connect and collaborate with school leadership to help create more opportunities for our middle school students.

The first Parent Pulse meeting will take place in November (exact date coming soon).

If you're interested in learning more or getting involved, please complete the interest form linked below:

🔗 **[Parent Pulse Interest Form]** 🔗 <https://forms.gle/cXMzt5h6baotDL6J7>

We look forward to building this community with you!

Parent-Teacher Conferences – Drop-In Style

Please join us for our **Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences** on:
-Tuesday, October 28th | 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
-Thursday, October 30th | 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Conferences will be held in a **drop-in format**, so no appointments are necessary. Stop by during the scheduled times to meet with your child’s teachers and hear about their progress.
Please note: there may be short wait times depending on attendance. If a teacher is unavailable or if you'd like more time for discussion, we’re happy to schedule a follow-up meeting or phone call.

8th Grade Field Trip – Science Water Testing

Our 8th-grade students will be heading out on a science field trip to complete water testing as part of their curriculum. Students will attend one of two groups:

-Group 1: Wednesday, October 22nd

-Group 2: Thursday, October 23rd

For questions or additional details, please contact **Ms. Tate** or **Mr. Buntley**.

End of Quarter 1 & Progress Reports

The **1st quarter ends on Friday, October 24th**.
Students will receive their **progress report the following week**.
Progress reports will be distributed during students' **6th-hour class on Tuesday, October 28th**.

2025 Bond Proposal – Investing in Our Future

As many of you are aware, Whitehall District Schools has a **Bond Proposal on the ballot this November**. If approved by voters, this proposal would fund critical improvements across our district
To learn more about the proposal, including detailed plans and FAQs, please visit the district bond proposal website at:
www.whitehallschools.net/ourdistrict/2025-bond-proposal

Thank you for staying engaged and connected. We look forward to seeing many of you at conferences. As always, please don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns at 231-893-1030.
Have a great weekend!

Craig Thompson
Principal, Whitehall Middle School

Vikings First Athletic Boosters- Attention parents! If you have a child who participates in middle school or high school sports, please consider joining the Vikings First Athletic Boosters. Through the fundraising efforts of Whitehall District School's athletic boosters, pay-to-play fees were eliminated for all middle school athletes, camp costs were cut by 1/2 for all high school athletes, and all students K-12 are able to attend home athletic events for FREE. Our next meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2025 from 6:30-7:30 at the Viking Athletic Center (conference room). Please join us!

6th Grade News:

Geography: Students are exploring how humans interact with our natural environment and the value of our natural resources as we study places.

Science: We are now wrapping up our study of graphing and will move into Biology after the break.

English: Sixth-grade English students are continuing their book study of Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief. The Mid-Unit Assessment will be administered this week. We will begin analyzing themes in fiction texts next week.

Math: We are starting a new unit on Ratios. Students will:

- Use tables, double number lines, and ratios per 1 to solve problems with equivalent ratios.
- Describe ratio relationships between two quantities using appropriate notation and mathematically precise language.
- Analyze strategies for solving problems involving equivalent ratios, including using tables and double number lines.

7th Grade News:

World History: Our 7th grade students are currently learning about Ancient Egypt and how the Nile River had such an impact on life at this time. We are also learning about the Egyptian pyramids and the reasons for them. We are going to have our quiz on Mesopotamia on October 24th.

Science: Mr. Huizenga’s Science Classes completed their first section of motion by researching jobs that use physics and presenting their slide shows to the class. Next up, Forces and Newton’s Laws!

English: The 7th graders have just wrapped up their first unit of our 'Lost Children of Sudan' module. In unit two, we continue our class novel, A Long Walk to Water, and introduce other non-fiction accounts of life as a ‘lost child’ of Sudan before writing a comparative essay.

Math: Math students are finishing up Unit 2 on proportional relationships. They will have their unit assessment late next week and then begin Unit 3 on Measuring Circles. In this unit students will learn about Unit circles and finding the area and circumferences of circles.

Ms. Feenstra’s class:

ELA and Science: We are going to start our work in restoring the butterfly garden, writing grants for materials, and rehearsing our Lorax readers' theater. We are also reading and learning more about the water cycle and how we can do our part to minimize water pollution.

Math: We are finishing our work on making and interpreting bar graphs and will be moving on to solving multiplication facts.

Social Studies: We are learning more about current events in our community and nation, along with starting our next unit on Sacagawea.

Viking Express: The next Viking Express will be open on October 24th during all lunch periods.

8th Grade News:

United States History: Over the next few weeks, we will learn about the United States Constitution. We will discuss the Articles of Confederation, Bill of Rights, Preamble, and the 3 Branches of Government.

Math: The Math 8 students have taken a quiz this week on the first half of Unit 2 - Dilations, Similarity, and Slope. The class will continue to work their way through Unit 2 over the next week. There will be a unit test in approximately 5-7 days.

Algebra: The algebra students are in the middle of unit 2, Linear Equations and Inequalities. The assessment for this unit will be the last week of October. The students also created a College Board account which will allow the students to receive their PSAT results.

Science: In the United States, we have an abundance of fresh water.....or do we? Students helped RAISE AWARENESS by creating a poster about how we can conserve water and save one of our most precious resources. Students are also preparing to test water quality parameters on the various streams that feed into White Lake. Each science class will be responsible for testing the water quality of one tributary next week on Wednesday (Ms. Tate’s classes) and Thursday (Mr. Buntley’s classes).

English: We began a new novel, Summer of the Mariposas by Guadalupe Garcia McCall. This is a Latin American rendition of The Odyssey. They are working on writing gist statements as well as exercising their comprehension skills. The marking period is coming to an end next week Friday – please check PowerSchool for any missing assignments!

Electives News:

Leadership: Students are working on engaging in difficult conversations, recognizing leaders around them, and exercising self-control through various skills, tips, and tricks. The end of the marking period is coming up – make sure you check PowerSchool for missing assignments!!!

Choir: Believe it or not, we are less than two months away from our December 11th Winter Choir Concert! This week, WMS Choirs voted on some selections and started working on their winter repertoire. As weird as it feels to sing holiday and winter-themed music in October, sometimes that’s the way it works in the choir world!

Band: The Winter Band Concert is also creeping up! Join us at 6:30 pm on December 9th at Whitehall High School for a night of festive music!

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.

Athletics:

Boys Basketball: Any 7th or 8th-grade boy interested in trying out for Boys Basketball needs to sign up on <https://www.finalforms.com> and fill out the required information. This is how you sign up to try out.

The 7th grade will practice at the VAC from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, starting October 27th. The 8th grade will practice at the Middle School from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, beginning October 27th.

Competitive Cheer: Competitive Cheer Tryouts will be held on Monday, October 27th, Thursday, October 30th and Monday, November 3rd from 4:00-6:00 pm on the green space at the VAC. If you are interested, please complete the necessary information in Final Forms prior to October 27th.

Winter Golf Sim League: 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>

Clubs:

Session 1 Afterschool Clubs starting soon! This year at WMS, we will have three 6-week sessions of school-sponsored afterschool clubs. These clubs are free and open to any 6-8 grade students who are interested.

Plant Club: Tuesdays 2:55-4:15; meeting dates 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18, 11/25
Advisor: Ms. Tate
Does your student love getting their hands dirty and learning how to make plants grow best? If they want to learn more about plants, how to propagate them, and add some greenery to the school, they should join the Plant Club. Our first meeting will be Tuesday, October 21st after school in room 20.

Shoe Club:
Are you still looking to make your mark on WMS? Do you have ideas about how to make the school a better place for all? The next Shoe Club meeting will be Thursday, October 23rd during advisory in Ms. Tate's room. Shoe Club is a brand-new leadership club at WMS, and students can still join! Please check in with your advisory teacher first for attendance and announcements.

Craft Club: Mondays 2:55-4:15; meeting dates 11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15
Advisor: Ms. Feenstra
Craft Club is looking for students who like to hang out in a relaxed environment and make friends while creating cool projects. During this session, students will be making various holiday crafts that they can take home.

Looking ahead:
Session 2 (January-February) Art Club, Yoga Club, Running Club
Session 3 (March-April) Book Club, Ukulele Club

 Canned Food Drive: Vikings vs. Ealy Elementary!

Our Whitehall Middle School Canned Food Drive kicks off Tuesday, October 22! We’re going head-to-head with Ealy Elementary to see which school can collect the most food for local families in need.

Students can bring in non-perishable food items all week long. For every 2 items donated, they’ll get to choose a free book from the display on the library counter along the windows — a fun way to encourage both giving and reading!  

We’re also adding a building challenge: the advisory that collects the most canned goods will win a Cider and Donuts Party!  

Families are encouraged to stop by the Library during conferences to see the growing canned food display and celebrate our students’ community spirit. Let’s show Ealy what Viking generosity looks like!  

 Library News: The Scholastic Book Fair Is Coming!

Mark your calendars — the Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Whitehall Middle School the week of October 27–31!

The fair will be open throughout the school day and during conferences on October 28 and 30, giving families a perfect opportunity to browse together. There will be new releases, student favorites, and teacher wish lists — plus every purchase helps support our library and future book collections!

You can also preview titles online and even set up a Scholastic eWallet for your student to make shopping cash-free and easy.

Come explore the fair, pick up something new to read, and see how our Vikings are giving back through the Canned Food Drive display while you’re here. It’s shaping up to be a fun and book-filled week in the WMS Library! 

 Hay Bale Decorating Competition!

Get ready for some fall fun, Vikings! 

Starting **Monday, October 21**, voting will open for the District Hay Bale Decorating Competition between all four Whitehall school buildings!

Our middle school’s hay bale is proudly displayed in front of the main entrance by the parent drop-off and VAC area — be sure to check it out in person during pick-up or conferences to see all the creativity up close.

This year, CatchMark Community News will host online voting through their website article, so keep an eye out for the link early next week and help us bring home the win for Whitehall Middle School!  

Our students put in a lot of effort and Viking spirit into this display — let’s show the community that WMS has the most creative crew around!













