

WMS NEWS

From the Principal’s Desk:

Dear Whitehall Middle School Families,

I hope this message finds you well as we move into the final stretch of the school year. As always, thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and schools. Today, I would like to share some vital information about an upcoming vote that directly impacts the future of Whitehall District Schools.

On Tuesday, May 6th, Whitehall residents will have the opportunity to vote on the WDS operating millage. We want to be sure that everyone has the correct information.

Here are the key points:

- If this proposal is not approved, WDS could lose about \$4.17 million in funding for the 2026 tax year.
- This is not a new or additional tax.
- ALL districts in Michigan are required to levy an operating millage.
- This only applies to non-homestead properties—such as businesses, second homes, rental properties, and other investment properties.
- The request for 20 mills is a protection. State law only allows us to collect 18 mills, but the additional 2 mills provide protection against future Headlee reductions, as we experienced in 2024.
- This millage accounts for approximately 13% of our annual operating budget

If you have any questions or would like more information, I encourage you to reach out to Superintendent VanWieren at 231-893-1010. He has been actively meeting with local businesses, community leaders, and residents to provide clear and factual answers. He is always happy to have a conversation with anyone who wants to learn more.

Thank you for staying informed and involved. Your engagement helps ensure the continued success of our schools and the education of all students in our community.



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:

Math - Our 6th graders will be taking the math M-STEP on Tuesday, May 6th in the morning classes. Please be sure to have your child arrive at school on time with a good night's rest and a healthy breakfast. We will ask students to leave their chromebooks at school on Monday to be sure they are charged and ready for the testing session.

Geography - Geography students are learning about the cultures and countries of North and South America. They continue to practice their map skills through a variety of activities.

Science - We are finishing our study of shadows and seasons. There will be a quiz next week.

English- Students successfully completed their 6th grade ELA MSTEP this past week. We would like to commend them on their best efforts and perseverance. We continue to read informational text, analyzing author’s point of view, word connotation, author’s purpose, and central idea. These studies have been focused on the great space race and its impact on our nation.

7th Grade News:

Science: Mr. Huizenga’s Science Classes will finish the year studying Ecology. We’ll cover Ecosystems, Symbiotic Relationships, and Predators vs. Prey in the next few weeks.

ELA: The ELA classes continue to work through figurative language and poetry as well as the final module which uses plastic pollution as a topic. The students will be evaluating claims and evidence throughout the module. The culminating project will be a short documentary on the issues with plastic in our environment.

Math: Math classes continue to work on Unit 6, Equations and Inequalities. We will have an assessment next week on solving multiple step equations. We will begin to focus on writing and solving inequalities after the quiz. This week we will be completing the math MStep on Thursday, May 8th.

History: The students in History Class will be studying Athens and Sparta as part of our Ancient Studies Unit. We will be looking at government, economics and the values of the two city-states.

8th Grade News:

ELA:
We have started a new novel study of Farewell to Manzanar. This novel focuses on the Japanese Internment Camps created during World War II. Students are working on understanding and comprehending distinctions and connections between characters, settings, and plot lines.

Math 8:
Math 8 students have begun Unit 7 Exponents and Scientific Notation.

Algebra:
In Algebra, students finished unit 7 this week and have begun unit 8 on Quadratic equations. We will be solving quadratic equations for the rest of the year.

U.S. History:
This week we will complete a State Report.

Science:
Students collected water samples in both Whitehall and Montague in the tributaries that lead into White Lake. They tested them for Nitrates, PH, Phosphates, bacteria and other parameters. Then they presented their findings to the class
They are learning how to chart their data, compare results and make inferences from their field site analysis.

Electives News:

Spotlight on Health:

6th grade: learning about emotions and the zones of regulation. Students recently made coping skill fortune tellers and are discovering new emotions with an emotion’s poster assignment.

7th: Students are wrapping up their Empathy and Anti-Bullying unit. Please have a conversation with your students about the importance of being kind to one another.

8th grade: In approximately 1.5 weeks, we will be starting our HIV/STI unit. As a parent, you have full rights to opt-your child out of this unit or some lessons. Please review the letter that was sent out to current 8th grade Health parents and contact Mrs. McGrew if you would like your student to be opted-out.

Prior to this unit, please have a discussion with your child about the importance of empathy and respect when it comes to sensitive topics like this one. I appreciate your support!

****If you have already opted your student out of this unit, no further action is needed.

Clubs:

Fishing Club

The Fishing Club kicked off their outdoor meetings last week at Goodrich Park with great success! Students enjoyed catching bluegill, and even Mr. Lupa landed a bass.



Viking Express/Craft Club

The Viking Express craft club will meet in room 12 on May 8th and May 18th from 3:00-4:30 to make items for the Viking Express. Items sold will help raise money for the school.

Athletics:

Baseball:

May 3, 11:00 AM, @ Kent City Middle School

May 10, 11:00 AM vs Ludington HS/OJ DeJonge MS @ Whitehall High School Baseball fields

May 17, 11:00 AM, vs Kent City Middle School @ Whitehall High School Baseball fields

Softball:

May 5 @ 5:30 PM vs Reeths Puffer @ Whitehall

May 7 @ 5:30 PM vs Fremont @ Fremont

May 12 @ 5:30 PM vs Grand Haven @ Grand Haven

Tennis:

May 3, 10 @ Big Rapids

May 10 @ Whitehall High School Vs. Ludington Black

May 17 @ Whitehall High School

Track:

May 7, 3:45 PM vs Fremont Middle School @ Whitehall High School

May 12, 4:00 PM vs Ravenna Middle/High School @ Whitehall High School

May 14, 3:00 PM vs Montague NBC Middle School @ Whitehall Middle School

May 20, 1:00 PM vs Fremont Middle School with 10 others @ Whitehall High School Football field

Soccer:

May 3, 8:30 AM @ Whitehall

May 10, 8:30 AM @ Fremont