

WMS NEWS



From the Principal's Desk:

Dear Middle School Families,

We are off to a great start, and I am incredibly proud of how our students have jumped into the new school year. It has been wonderful to see our hallways filled with energy, excitement, and students ready to learn.

Our students have accomplished a lot. They have learned their class schedules, navigated new routines, and—perhaps most impressively—mastered their lockers! Our athletic teams have also gotten underway, giving students opportunities to build teamwork, school spirit, and connections with their peers. It has been exciting to see so many students getting involved and making the most of their middle school experience.

Staying Connected About Attendance:

This year, we are making an effort to strengthen communication between school and home regarding attendance. Families will receive a phone call when a student is marked unexcused for the day or when a student receives a tardy. Our hope is that this communication will provide families with timely information and create an opportunity for questions or conversations when needed. Thank you for partnering with us to help ensure our students arrive at school on time and ready to learn each day.

Picture Day:

Picture Day will take place on September 17.

Cell Phones & Headphones:

As a reminder, cell phones and headphones are expected to remain in students' lockers throughout the entire school day. This expectation helps us maintain a focused learning environment and encourages students to be present and engaged with their teachers and classmates.

MINGA Update:

At Whitehall Middle School, we are excited to recognize and celebrate students who demonstrate positive behaviors throughout the school day! Staff members use MINGA to award points to students who demonstrate our school values, VIKES: Value-Self, Integrity, Kindness, Engage, and Self-Control.

As students earn points for making positive choices, parents and guardians may receive email notifications when their child is recognized. These notifications are intended to celebrate the positive behaviors and choices students are making at school.

We encourage families to ask their students about the points they earn and celebrate their successes together. Thank you for partnering with us as we work to recognize positive behavior and encourage every student to be their best!

I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Craig Thompson, WMS Principal

6th Grade News:

Science - Welcome to 6th Grade science! We begin our year exploring the tools of science while setting up our class norms. We will move into measurement in a couple weeks.

Geography –The students have been getting the procedures for our class down and understanding how we work together and learn. We have started working with different types of maps and how they show us information. The 3 main types of maps we are working with this week are Political, Physical and Climate. Looking ahead we will continue strengthening our map skills and learning how to process information by reading articles and taking notes!

Math - We started exploring our Amplify math curriculum and are finishing up the beginning of year benchmark assessment. We will begin our first unit of study on area and surface area. Students learn to calculate areas of polygons by decomposing, rearranging, enclosing, and composing shapes. They also represent polyhedra with nets and calculate their surface areas.

English- 6th-grade English students are working hard to learn how to operate in middle school. They have been diligently mastering opening lockers and learning how to get to their classes on time. In English class students learned new learning structures and thinking maps culminating in writing a compare and contrast paragraph(s) about their and their friend’s summer activities. We ended this very hot and humid week with the NWEA English assessment and will begin the regular curriculum after Labor Day. Overall, they are adjusting well!

7th Grade News:

World History- In 7th grade, we just wrapped up our Core Democratic Values and completed a map of Michigan. We are now starting to learn about Early Humans and the Paleolithic, Monolithic, and Neolithic Ages. We will learn about the culture and what people did during those times to survive.

Science- Welcome to 7th Grade Science! I’m excited to begin a new year of learning, exploring, experimenting, and growing together. The first few weeks we have focused on classroom expectations and procedures while visiting a few topics such as the scientific method and technical writing. We are looking forward to an amazing school year.

Math- The students have begun lessons in the first unit this week. This unit’s topic is about identifying scale copies, and drawing scaled shapes. They will be using ratio tables to help find the scale factor in order to create these. They also have taken the math NWEA this week.

English– Students are getting into the swing of things and remembering what it’s like to be back at school. Over the past two weeks, we’ve reviewed our VIKES Expectations, covered our classroom procedures, and introduced our first module, epidemics. On top of that, students completed our fall NWEA benchmark testing. It’s been a busy back-to-school for these 7th-graders! After Labor Day, they can expect to jump into the module feet first and start learning about the bubonic plague!

Whitehall Families:

If you need Holiday assistance this year for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas, please use the link below to fill out the form.

Thanksgiving assistance includes a food basket (including a turkey) thanks to Ferry Memorial Church. Christmas assistance includes a food basket and personalized gifts thanks to The Giving Tree.

Please fill out this form by Friday September 25th.

<https://forms.gle/6mcaHM8bqYfj5PsX7>

8th Grade News:

United States History- United States History:

This week, we will continue to enhance our geography skills by completing maps of Michigan and the United States.

Next week, we will start our first unit on the original 13 Colonies. Our goal is to describe the geography and culture of the New England Colonies, Middle Colonies and Southern Colonies.

English- Last week, students reviewed important grammar skills, including parts of speech, simple sentences, and compound sentences. We also explored clues and background information to make predictions about our first-class novel. On Tuesday, we officially began reading Summer of the Mariposas by Guadalupe García McCall! For the rest of the week, students will continue reading and discussing the novel while also strengthening their understanding of different sentence types.

Math- The students have started Unit 1 - Rigid Transformations and Congruence. We will be working on how to move 2D shapes on a XY Coordinate Grid. This will be through the use of translations, rotations, and reflections. They also will have taken the math NWEA this week.

Algebra- The students have started Unit 1 Patterns and Sequences. Please check your email for more information about the start of the year.

Science- We are exploring what science is and how to use the scientific method to explore things that we wonder about.

We did our first experiments and learned independent and dependent variables.

Students worked in teams of 4 and learned about group dynamics and the importance of everyone providing input.

Explained how the world uses Metrics as the main source of measurement and learned how to calculate different metric measurements

Electives News:

Spotlight on Career Exploration:

So far in Career Exploration, students have been building important digital and professional skills. They have learned how to organize and color-coordinate folders in Google Drive, create professional email signatures, and properly use email features such as Reply and Reply All. Students have also practiced writing and formatting professional emails using appropriate language and communication skills.

We are now working on a Bucket List Project, where students are exploring personal goals, experiences they would like to have, and things they hope to accomplish throughout their lives.

White Lake Robotics Interest Link

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:eb15a20d-74b6-463f-af4b-7164faf2b3a8>

Please click on the link above for information on Middle School Robotics club. For any questions please contact colinragan@whitehallschools.net