

Bobcat Tales

Whiteford Agricultural Schools
6655 Consear Road
Ottawa Lake, MI 49267



POSTAL CUSTOMER

Whiteford School District
Ottawa Lake, MI 49267



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2022 – 2023 SCHOOL HOURS / CALENDAR

Building	Starting Time	Ending Time	Early Dismissal Time
Elementary	7:55 AM	3:10 PM	11:10 AM
Middle/High School	7:55 AM	2:55 PM	11:00 AM

August 29Registration Day (Grades 6-12)

August 31Teacher PD Day

August 31.....EL & MS/HS Open House & 6th Grade Orientation

Sept. 6.....First Day of School (students report at noon)

Oct. 31.....EARLY DISMISSAL (Teacher PD Day)

Nov. 10.....EARLY DISMISSAL (Parent-Teacher Conferences)

Nov. 23.....EARLY DISMISSAL (Start of Thanksgiving Break)

Nov. 24-25NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving Break)

Dec. 2.....EARLY DISMISSAL (Teacher PD Day)

Dec. 22.....EARLY DISMISSAL (Start of Christmas/Winter Break)

Dec. 23-
Jan. 2NO SCHOOL (Christmas / Winter Break)

Jan. 16.....NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Jan. 19-20.....EARLY DISMISSAL (Exams)

Feb. 17.....EARLY DISMISSAL (Teacher PD Day)

Feb. 20.....NO SCHOOL (President's Day)

Feb. 21.....EARLY DISMISSAL (Teacher PD Day)

March 24.....EARLY DISMISSAL (Start of Spring Break)

March 27-31NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)

April 7-10.....NO SCHOOL (Easter Break)

April 12.....STATE TESTING DAY (NO SCHOOL K-7, 12)

May 29.....NO SCHOOL (Memorial Day)

June 8.....EARLY DISMISSAL (Exams)

June 9*EARLY DISMISSAL (Exams & Last Day of School)

**Pending weather delays/closings; Parents are reminded that additional days may be added to the school year should we exceed our state limitation on number of days/hours cancelled or delayed during the school year.*

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY SCHEDULE

*1st Tuesday: 4:00—6:00 Nova Faith 5105 Glendale Ave., Toledo, OH 43614

*1st Thursday: 4:30—6:30 Crossroads 6960 Sylvania-Petersburg Rd., Ottawa Lake, MI 49267

*2nd Tuesday: 3:00—5:00 St. Paul's Episcopal 798 S. Coy Rd., Oregon, OH 43616

*2nd Friday: 10:00—12:00 5 Points @ Augsburg Lutheran 1342 W. Sylvania Ave., Toledo, OH 43612

*3rd Thursday: 12:00—2:00 Lott Industries 3350 Hill Ave., Toledo, OH 43607

*4th Thursday: 4:00—6:00 Indiana Ave Missionary Baptist 640 Indiana Ave., Toledo, OH 43604

*4th Friday: 2:00—4:00 Agape Community Center 225 S. Irwin Rd., Holland, OH 43528

Food Pantry Dates / Hours

Crossroads Church
1st Thursday of Month
4:30 PM—6:30 PM

St. Michael Lutheran Church
2nd Saturday of Month
10 AM—11 AM

Zion Lutheran Church
2nd/4th Tuesday of Month
10 AM—12 PM



WHITEFORD AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS

Bobcat Tales

This newsletter is also available on the district's website: www.whiteford.k12.mi.us

April 2023



WHITEFORD TAKES US OVER THE RAINBOW!



This year's much anticipated theatrical production of *The Wizard of Oz* debuted Friday night, March 17th and ran the entire weekend with another nighttime show on Saturday, March 18th, and ended with the traditional matinee show on Sunday, March 19th, 2023. When we, the audience members, settle in for another stellar Whiteford musical, we *only* see the beautifully polished finished product where everything looks, sounds, and runs like a well-oiled machine. What we *don't* see is all the unimaginable time, effort, and behind-the-scenes work it takes to put together a show of this magnitude. Every year during theatre season, a staggering measure of talent, labor, and love is put forth by the directors, choreographers, costume designers, set designers/builders, backstage crew, sound, lighting, orchestra, hair, makeup, food service, ticket sales, photography, and so much more! A gargantuan thank you to all who played a role in helping to produce yet another magical theatre extravaganza for all! For more about this year's play, including gorgeous stage shots of our incredibly talented actors, please follow the yellow brick road to pages 8 and 9 and enjoy your journey through Oz!





Superintendent of Schools
Scott L. Huard

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE...

Dear Bobcat Family,

As the weather continues to improve each week, I get excited for all that occurs during the last quarter of school. Our elementary students have opportunities for field trips that allow them to experience learning in a real-world setting. Grade-level field trips planned for this spring at Sylvania Historical Village, Toledo Zoo, Indian Creek Zoo, Sauder Village, Imagination Station, and Lievens Farms will not only offer an educational experience, but will also provide students with memories and learning that will last for months and years to come.

Some of our secondary students will participate in MSVMA Choral Festivals, Monroe County Fine Arts Festival, NHS Inductions, FFA Awards Banquet, special class activities, and the much-anticipated Junior/Senior Prom. Our middle and high school athletic teams are off to a great start in softball, baseball, and track and field, and we expect several accomplishments by the season's end. The final weeks for our seniors are always special with celebrations and special events such as Senior Sunday, Senior Parade, Senior Sunset, Senior Breakfast, and Commencement.

As a family or community member, I challenge you to help support these spring experiences by volunteering to chaperone a field trip or by attending one of these special academic or athletic events. Our students continue to work hard in the classroom daily, and we are seeing great accomplishments from their efforts. You can find important events by visiting our district website and calendar. We are better together - We are Whiteford!

Sincerely,

Scott L. Huard

Scott L. Huard
Superintendent



Board of Education

President
Christine Bischoff

Vice President
Dave Dixon

Secretary
Mike Iott

Treasurer
Shane Hillard

Trustees
Kristi Mock
Janelle Young
Jeff Bunge

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings
6:00 PM

May 8
June 12
July 10
August 14
September 11
October 9
November 13
December 11

District Mission / Vision

*Engaged ... in our learning
Encouraged ... by our community
Empowered ... for our world*

We are Whiteford!

Counseling Corner SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER HEAD & LAUREN EHMAN

TIPS FOR STANDARDIZED TESTING

- ◆ Read all instructions thoroughly including passage introductions. They give you a better understanding of the context of the passage.
- ◆ Read questions thoroughly. Many students have the tendency to skip over important details because they are going too quickly.
- ◆ Answer the easiest questions first, then come back. This helps you move through the test faster and not remain stuck on one question for too long.
- ◆ Eliminate the obviously wrong choices to narrow down your options.
- ◆ Pace yourself.
- ◆ Get a good night's rest the night before the test.
- ◆ Eat a healthy breakfast the morning of the test.
- ◆ Leave your nerves at the door and just do your very best!



What's All the Buzz About?!!



WESTON WARREN, SPELLING BEE WINNER!

The Annual 5th Grade Spelling Bee is always a much-anticipated event at Whiteford Elementary School! This year, the fun yet challenging event took place back on January 24th, not too long after the start of the new year. In preparation for the event, students were provided lists in advance from which they could study if they chose to do so. On the day of the affair, Principal Anderson had the distinct honor of carefully reading the words to the student contestants, and the students then had to correctly spell the words into a microphone while the fifth grade teachers, (Mrs. Biddle and Mrs. Shepherd, pictured left), served as judges. Everything was done by the book, as the official spelling bee rules provided by the county were followed. Congratulations to Spelling Bee Champ Weston Warren! Weston will be moving on to the Monroe County Spelling Bee taking place on May 30th, 2023, at the Monroe County Intermediate School District in Monroe, Michigan. We wish him the very best! Also deserving of our congratulations are the top 10 5th Grade Spelling Bee finalists pictured below. From left to right: our 1st place winner, Weston Warren, Jacen Cousino, Cody Sager, Kyra Raker, Kaitlyn Parsons, Rowyn Wing, Charlie Weiser, Caden Speweik, Lane Smith-Emerson, and Maya Russeau. Great job to all of our exemplary spellers!! They most definitely are worth all the buzz!!!



MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL (2ND QUARTER)

6th Grade All A's

Anderson, Kinsley
Dietz, Ella
Dubendorfer, Drew
Hill, Addison
Hill, Oliver
Huard, Anna
Iott, Clara
Johnson, Aubrey
Masters, Kate
Meinert, Grayson
Ovall, Macy
Perez, Stafani
Puhl, Aiden
Rasor, Kaia
Rasor, Grant
Saylor, Jacob
Scott, Raelynn
Swy, Ava
Taylor, Lauren
Zawacki, Fischer
Zink, Gabriel

7th Grade All A's

Ballert, Logan
Butz, Ava
Griffith, Allison
Jurgenson, Harlow
Masters, Brody
Miller, Jacoby
Olrich, Jade
Podgorski, Brady
Raker, Allen
Vida, Molly

7th Grade All A's

Vida, Rory
White, Brielle
Wing, Breslin

8th Grade All A's

Alcock, Brayden
Biggs, Paityn
Billau, Austin
Briem, Kaeleigh
Chiotti, Braelynn
DuRocher, Delaney
Johns, Sage
Krajcar, Piper
Luse, Kayla
Masters, Marissa
Miller, Samuel
Prange, Amber
Ruddy, Brek
Stevens, Ava
Stewart, Caden
Turvey, Amanda
Valasek, James
Williams, Leah
Wood, Avy
Wright, Leah
Zawacki, Thayne

6th Grade All A's and B's

Abalos, Xavier
Blaisdell, Ayden
Chalmers, Cadence
Cole, Jordan
Ellis, Austin Judah

6th Grade All A's and B's

Gillette, Mason
Lehberger, Kendra
Mahnke, Allianna
May, Makylee
McCullough, Nathan
Oxley, Zahna
Pawson, Carter
Peterlin, Wyatt
Russeau, Wesley
Sanjur, Noah
Sanjur, Logan
Soss, Colton
Swearingen, Autumn
Van Aken, Hailey
Wood, Cody
Zink, Samuel

7th Grade All A's and B's

Benoit, Quinn
Biswas, Ellie
Cole, Kiera
Cousino, Jackson
Ellis, Camden
Ingram, Rilee
Keller, Lane
Kendel, Emmalyn
Lake, Blair
Meinert, Gavin
Miller, Mason
Milot, Emery
Mock, Indiana
Mohler, Carolyn
Pitney, Casey

7th Grade All A's and B's

Schumacher, Nathan
Shingleton, Kallie
Smith, Parker
Speweik, Glory
Suchora, Eva
Thomson, Norah
Viros, Anthony
8th Grade All A's and B's
Bieber, Charlie
Call, Cooper
DeBarr, Sierra
Eitnecar, Tre
Joerin, Theodore
Kahn, Sophia
McCullough, Jason
Messerschmidt, Kloe
Mills, Conner
Parkinson, Ishua
Perez, Itxel
Pirrone, Laney
Ray, Cooper
Robertson, Blake
Schober, Cade
Schumacher, Hailey
Smith, Ava
Sulier, Ava
Thomas, Jonathan
Tyrrell, Brookelynn
Valasek Wienclaw, Alisyn



ATHLETICS REPORT

SUBMITTED BY JEREMY SIMMONS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL/ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

HELP WANTED!

I have learned many lessons during my first year as Athletic Director. The biggest lesson is that the need for officials, referees, and umpires is a legitimate issue. I have spent numerous hours talking to other Athletic Directors, Administrators, and the MHSAA in regards to finding officials for our games. The lack of officials will be impacting our student-athlete experiences soon. There were schools this fall that were forced to move the traditional Friday night, under-the-lights football game to a Saturday noon start game. Basketball games this winter saw the same thing. For example, we once had a referee who came from officiating a JV game at Bedford and then ran over here to Whiteford to referee our varsity basketball game. Schools have changed dates and times in order to play their games. At one point this basketball season, I had to ask our math teacher and former referee, Brad Stevens, to dust off the whistle and officiate a middle school basketball game. I know this community, and I know of our love for athletics and for our students. What better way to give back than to help them continue to play sports the right way?



HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL (2ND QUARTER)

9th Grade All A's

Andrews, Nate
Bahls, Mallory
Bauman, Nina
Brown, Nolan
Chung, Iza
Cousino, Addeson
Diesing, Cooper
French, Samuel
Frye, Jenna
Griffith, Cole
Hamid, Sarah
Hillard, Brody
LaVoy, Kailee
Ross, Grace
Ruddy, Drew
Schalmo, Garrett
Schroyer, Caden
Scott, Jake
Shingleton, Rory
Spradling, Bailey
Turvey, Alison
VanHove, Addyson
Welker, Tyler

9th Grade All A's and B's

Billau, Koralynn
Consear, Lana
DeBarr, Mason
Emch, Zayne
Henegar, Luke
McCormack, Lincoln
McCullough, Everett
Mills, Blake
Osburn, Elana
Peters, Gavin
Russell, Tess
Smith, Connor
Speweik, Gabriel
Thomas, Keegan
Vore, Troy
Wing, Briar
Zawacki, Chase
Zimmerman, Brayden



10th Grade All A's

Biswas, Emmy
Consear, Layla
Emerson, Virginia
Fielder, Ava
Houttekier, Phoebe
Joerin, Rylan
Laws, Olivia
Lehsten, Isabell
Lorenzen, Mariah
Luse, Haley
Masters, Brendon
McClain, Alaina
Mills, Brooklyn
Rasor, Emily
Saylor, Jenna
Vance, Bailey
Waterford, Malia
Wolniewicz, Audrey



10th Grade All A's and B's

Bott, Connor
Butz, Megan
Butz, Brady
Cousino, Avery
Delmotte, Logan
Henry, Brooke
Lee, Chase
Linkey, Adam
Neal, Dalton
Perez, Cristal
Porter, Connor
Ruehle, Olivia
Smith, Benjamin



11th Grade All A's

Aguado, Miasofia
Andrews, Makayla
Briem, Savannah
DeSilvis, Rylie
Dickinson, MaKayla
Gapp, Annabelle
Gorney, Ava
Hill, Joshua
Iott, Jackson
Johnson, Abigail
Lay, Joslyn
Masserant, Kolby
Minkowski, Sofie
Nelson, Unity
Podgorski, Maysen
Ruddy, Ryn
Schober, Anna
Simmons, Aubrie
Stevens, Noah
Thomas, Margo
Turvey, Emily
Vida, Luke
Webb, Jillian
Wing, Reagan

11th Grade All A's and B's

Alexander, Shaylin
Brace, Victoria
Conard, Karlei
Crook, Jayden
DuVall, Dane
Ellis, Avery
Gray, Kenzie
Griffith, Keira
Henry, Jacob
Indoval, Adriana
Iott, Jacob
Joerin, Lincoln
Masters, Keegan
Olrich, Trent
Parker, Evan
Schaefer, Jacqueline
Sheldon, Kaydence
Wernet, Emma



12th Grade All A's

Andrews, Alaina
Bauman, Ali
Blanchard, Morgan
Butz, Kaitlyn
DeBruyne, Lexi
Donnelly, Addison
French, Thomas
Giesige, Jake
Gorney, Braden
Guilliam, Emily
Hillard, Ava
Holup, Erica
Luse, Brayden
Marsh, Patrina
McCullum, Kennedy
McLaughlin, Mason
Norman, Halle
Rasor, Luke
Raymond, Emily
Riffle, Hailey
Rodgers, Elliott
Ruddy, Shea
Siler, Ava
Spradling, Allison
Thomas, Madelyn
Ulery, Alyssa
Ulery, Jessica
Ulery, Mackenzie
VanBrandt, Aly

12th Grade All A's and B's

Anderson, Dylan
Brown, Logan
Cousino, Madelyn
Cousino, Aidan
DeBruyne, Logan
Ellis, Alena
Gray, Keith
Gray, Kyle
Huard, Claire
Jakubowski, Melanie
Kolmar, Cameron
Lipp, Karmen
Russell, Kennedy
Speweik, Quinn
Turvey, Sarah
Waterford, Seamus



WHITEFORD REPRESENTS WELL AT FFA STATE CONVENTION

SUBMITTED BY JAKE GUST, AG SCIENCE TEACHER & FFA ADVISOR

Jr. High Public Speaking STATE WINNER



Whiteford FFA Chapter
Braelynn Chiotti
#OURJOURNEYAWAITS

The Whiteford FFA Chapter traveled to East Lansing, Michigan for the 95th State FFA Convention on Wednesday, March 8th through Friday, March 10th. Members who advanced past Regionals were able to compete in State Leadership contests. Members also watched FFA convention sessions, watched other FFA members' speeches and presentations, and received their own awards, including the FFA State Degree, FFA Outstanding Junior Degree, and Academic Excellence Awards.

The chapter also did an agronomy farm tour where they learned about different majors and degree programs at Michigan State's Agronomy Farm. The agronomy farm also showed students about the research trials they do, including weeds and herbicides, fertility, and potato research.

Of course, no trip is complete without a little fun. Whiteford members found time to skate at Michigan State's Munn Ice Arena, socialize at the Region 2 FFA Ice cream social, and spend time with the Dundee, Ida, and Blissfield chapters at Zap Zone, which is a laser tag, putt-putt, and trampoline fun zone.

Whiteford FFA members earned the following results:

Braelynn Chiotti—State Champion-Gold Award in Jr. High Public Speaking contest; speech on Net Pen Aquaculture in Great Lakes.

Ava Hillard—5th place Gold Award in Prepared Public Speaking contest; speech on Foreign Investment in American Farmland.

Ag Issues—Team of Alaina McClain, Brooklyn Mills, Mallory Bahls, Samantha Smith-Emerson, Bailey Spradling, Jenna Frye, and Briar Wing. Presented pros and cons of dicamba herbicide. 5th place, Silver Award

Demonstration—Team of Erica Holup, Abigail Johnson, Margo Thomas, and Zach Kahn. Did a demonstration on Maple Syrup production. 8th place, Silver Award.

Greenhand Conduct of Meetings—Team of Garrett Schalmo, Lana Consear, Gabe Speweik, Addeson Cousino, Alison Turvey, Logan Delmotte, and Gracie Tuttle. Conducted a 10-minute mock FFA meeting using parliamentary abilities and had a problem to solve. 8th place, Silver Award.



SUBMITTED BY KAZIA KRAMER

Whiteford Recreation Basketball season has come to a close. What a great season it was for all those involved! Thanks again to our coaches, volunteers, and committed parents who made this season a great success.

Baseball/Softball season is just around the corner. We had nearly 90 young athletes commit to building their skills this spring. Teams are built and volunteer coaches will be reaching out to parents in early April. LET'S PLAY BALL!

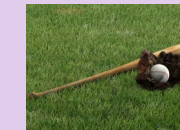
Did you know we have a website? Find all you need to know on our site, from sign-up dates, sponsors, access to online sign-ups, to field locations and meeting times. Find it all here: <https://sites.google.com/view/whitefordrecreationsignups/home> or connect with us at <https://www.facebook.com/whitefordRec>.

The Weather is getting nice! Consider visiting Whiteford Stone Co Park. While you're there check out our sponsors' banners hanging proudly on the fences. These great companies generously invest in our kids and community programs. Let's give them our support!

Sponsors (those listed in bold are 5-year sponsors):

Whiteford Athletic Boosters, Wilkinson Sportswear, Edward Jones (Nick Puhl, AAMS), Fricker's Sylvania, Thompson Plumbing & Heating Inc., Lake Bum, HLS Orthodontics Lambertville, Mary K-Helen Kuch-Kunich, Stevens Disposal, Andrew Gill Insurance, B&B Restoration Services, Bankowski Builders, Barron Insurance Agency, Brad's Septic & Sewer, D&H Enterprises LLC, Gogel Fastener and Industrial Supply Co., Healthy Family Chiropractic, Lambertville Mini Storage, Rouen Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, and Skylight Financial Group.

Want to get connected? Join us each month in the High School Media Center on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7pm.



WHITEFORD PARENTS ASSOCIATION (WPA) NEWS

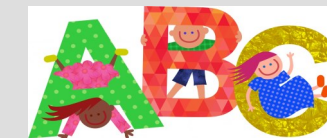
SUBMITTED BY JACLYN WARREN

Spring has sprung and, (believe it or not!), it's time to wind down the school year. Thank you to everyone who has helped us with all the events we've done so far this year, and those we still have left to pull off!

Our spring fundraisers looked a little different this year. We hope everyone had a chance to support your little readers in their Read-A-Thon. Money earned will go towards so many other events (transportation to the Croswell Theater, Teacher Appreciation Week, and Senior scholarships, to name just a few). Though this fundraiser was meant to take the place of Little Caesar's, we did not want to leave our past years' supporters hanging; so this year, our Little Caesar's fundraiser will be done all online, with products shipping directly to you! Watch our Facebook page and your child's backpack for information on how to order, and feel free to reach out to us on Facebook with any questions.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM in the elementary school cafeteria. Those remaining dates are April 18th and May 16th. We look forward to seeing you there!

Follow us on Facebook—simply search for Whiteford Parents' Association! Already following us? Please invite your Whiteford friends to like our WPA Facebook page, too! We don't want anyone to miss news and updates regarding all of our exciting events and opportunities for parents and grandparents to get involved!



HOW TO CONTACT US MAIN PHONE

734-856-1443

PHONE PROMPTS

- 4 Elementary Office
- 5 MS/HS Office Athletic Dept.
- 6 Transportation Superintendent/ Business Office/ Maintenance

ADMINISTRATION / SUPPORT SERVICES

Superintendent
Scott L. Huard
ext. 101 or 401

Elementary Principal
Marcy Anderson
ext. 104 or 110

MS/HS Principal
Jeremy Fielder
ext. 102 or 108

Assistant Principal & Athletic Director
Jeremy Simmons
ext. 103 or 109

Dean of Student Services/Career Coach
Ken Groch
ext. 240

El. Counselor
Lauren Ehman
Ext. 309

MS/HS Counselor
Jennifer Head
ext. 216

Director of Transportation, Buildings & Grounds
Charlie Butz
ext. 107 or 401

Director of Finance & Business Services
Marisa Tebbe-Cousino
ext. 105

Accounting Assistant
Laura Cruz-Hartland
ext. 106

HR Generalist
Cathy Machcinski
ext. 111

OFFICE FAXES

Elementary Office
734-856-4724

MS/HS Office
734-856-2564

Superintendent / Business Office
734-854-6463

BOBCAT ROBOTICS TEAM 6570 CONTINUED HIGHLIGHTS



More Quotes from Team 6570....

Samuel Murphy – 3rd Year - Programming Team/Drive Team

Favorite memory from robotics: "My favorite memory is from last year, when I was able to be on the drive team with my brother, that was a really cool experience to have. But being able to have a working swerve drive this year and finishing in the top 8 was really great too."

Olivia Laws – 2nd year – Communications Team/Spokesperson

What made you join robotics: "I met a senior that introduced me to Whiteford robotics [last year] and I fell in love with the people and working with everyone on this team!"



ATHLETIC BOOSTER NEWS

Athletic Booster meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 6pm in the MS/HS Media Center. Come join the fun and help support Whiteford athletics!

Kroger Community Rewards Program

If you are not currently supporting an organization through the Kroger Community Rewards Program, please take a few minutes to register today and help support Bobcat athletics. Go to www.kroger.com, log into your account and follow the links to the Community Rewards page. Select organization number **PV787** as the donation recipient. Remember, this is free money and will not affect your fuel points!



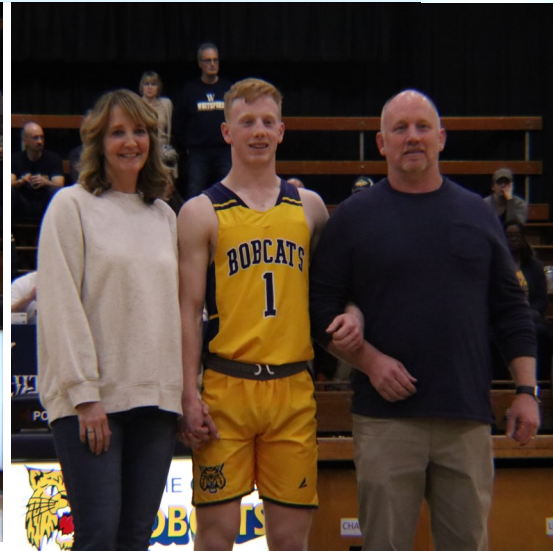
Winterfest 2023



Ms. Whiteford Aly VanBrandt & Mr. Whiteford Shea Ruddy



Ms. Whiteford Candidate, Aly, with parents Audra & Matt Van Brandt



Mr. Whiteford Candidate, Shea, with parents Buffy & K.C. Ruddy



Ms. Whiteford Candidate Alaina Andrews with parents Chris & Matt Andrews



Ms. Whiteford Candidate Halle Norman with mom Amy Norman



Ms. Whiteford Candidate Ava Hillard with parents Mariann & Shane Hillard



Week 1 had a few challenges to overcome. The first challenge was the weather on Friday. The snow came in fast on Friday afternoon, bringing with it an unprecedented, early end to the first competition day. This disrupted the normal flow of the game the first day and caused a change in the flow for the second day. The robot brought with it some challenges of its own. Early on, it became apparent that some adjustment was needed with our arm assembly. The pit crew and coding team worked diligently to trace out the issue and repair our robot. Once the issue was resolved, our robot worked exactly the way the

team had envisioned. It was flawless from that point on. In one match, our alliance put up the second highest qualifying score of the weekend.

Week 2 in Lansing, our robot was ready to go from the start. Having worked out all the gremlins the week before, our Drive Team was able to consistently demonstrate that our team designed, built, and programmed a superior robot. Game after game, our team showcased the reliability of our robot, concluding the weekend with our highest ranking finish ever: **5th place overall** and moving up to become captain of **Alliance 3**. We have an amazing Scouting/Strategy Team that was able to analyze all the game data that they had gathered during the qualifying rounds so our team captain could make strategic selections for which teams we would invite to join our Alliance for the playoffs. We were able to take our robot all the way to the semi-final match. Our Pit Crew tirelessly supported our robot throughout this marathon event, and our Spokesperson was able to engage with the judges that stopped by the pit several times to ask questions about our team, our community, and our robot. Because of the combined effort and consistent demonstration of excellence, our team was awarded the **FIRST Autonomous Award** by the judges.

Our team this year had 23 students. At competition they were divided into specific roles: Drive Team, Pit Crew, Strategy/Scouting, Safety Captain, and Spokesperson. Our team's core values were clearly evident as they worked together during the entire build season to develop the robot we brought to competition this year, and they continued to display these values as they tirelessly supported and encouraged each other, and other teams, during the long competition days. These students represented our school and our community with the highest level of integrity and professionalism, demonstrating their good character. We will miss our six seniors (Keith Gray, Kyle Gray, Mason McLaughlin, TJ French, Jaedon Diesing, and Elliot Rodgers) and wish them the best of luck as they pursue their future plans and goals.

Thank you to everybody in the Whiteford community, and beyond, who has supported us. We would not be able to do what we do without the involvement and generosity of our incredible community and sponsors. We appreciate you!

Quotes from Team 6570....



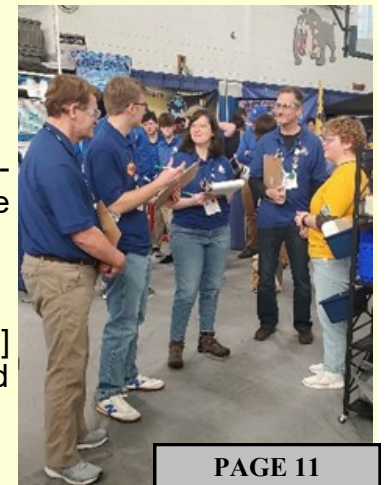
Kyle Gray – 4th Year - Build Team/Pit

What robotics means to you: "Robotics is being a team player but also being able to be yourself and use your imagination, being able to cooperate with other people and combine the power of minds to create something."

Connor Porter – 2nd Year - Build Team/Drive Team

Favorite part about robotics: "Seeing the design and build that you [helped] come up with, competing on the field and doing as well as it has done, and being able to be a part of it."

*Article continued on page 12...



WHITEFORD ROBOTICS TEAM ENJOYS A STELLAR SEASON!

SUBMITTED BY CHERYL MURPHY



The 2023 Season for Whiteford Bobcats, Robotics Team 6570 was the best one yet! This is our 7th year competing in FIRST Robotics competitions. Each year the challenge presented by FIRST changes, and each year our team meets that challenge with creativity, persistence, excellence, and teamwork. This year's game challenge was CHARGED UP, presented by Haas.

The **CHARGED UP** competition was broken into three skills challenges:

1. **Autonomous Mode:** the robot executes a specific task within a set time limit, without control from a driver. Our robot would deliver a game piece to the highest level of the score zone and then drive itself to the Charge Station (a pivoting elevated platform). The robot would drive onto the platform and balance.
2. **Tele-Op Mode:** the robot is operated by our drive team to collect cones and cubes and deliver them to tiered levels in our alliance scoring zone. The objective is to place the cones and cubes in "links" of three game pieces in a row. Completing three-piece links will score points for the alliance. The position of the game pieces and the position of the links will determine point value. We needed to work cooperatively with our alliance members to form strategic links to earn the most points.
3. **Charge Station:** at the conclusion of the game, the drive team would dock and balance our robot on a platform that is mounted on a pivoting frame. The goal was to have all three of our alliance's robots balanced together on this narrow, shifting platform.

Every year, our team strives to create a robot using the methodology of being specialized, standardized, and simple. This has been a very successful engineering strategy for our team. This year, however, the team decided that they wanted to try something new. Instead of focusing on one specialized part of the game, they wanted to design and build a robot that was all encompassing; a stand-out robot that was capable of doing everything the game asked for. This was a bold goal, but this team was ready. They pulled together and worked diligently to not only design an amazing, superior robot, but they did so in only 6 short weeks, incorporating innovative designs and new technology, including our first ever swerve drive. Our team was scheduled to compete during Week 1 and Week 2 of the competition season. Week 1 of the competition was held in Jackson, MI, March 2-4 at Spring Arbor University. Week 2 of the competition was held in Lansing, MI, March 9-11 at Mason High School.



Mr. Whiteford Candidate Dylan Anderson with mom Marcy Anderson

Mr. Whiteford Candidate Brayden Luse with parents Joy & Mark Luse

Mr. Whiteford Candidate Luke Rasor with parents Tammy & Travis Rasor



Last Year's Royalty Anna VanBrandt & Ty Ruddy



Left: The Bobcat Boys Basketball Team dominated Summerfield with a final score of 70-47 at the February 17th Winterfest game! Below: Students enjoyed dancing the night away at the 2023 Winterfest Dance!



Queen Aly & King Shea



ATHLETIC BOOSTER NEWS

Athletic Booster meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 6pm in the MS/HS Media Center. Come join the fun and help support Whiteford athletics!

Kroger Community Rewards Program

If you are not currently supporting an organization through the Kroger Community Rewards Program, please take a few minutes to register today and help support Bobcat athletics. Go to www.kroger.com, log into your account and follow the links to the Community Rewards page. Select organization number **PV787** as the donation recipient. Remember, this is free money and will not affect your fuel points!

FOLLOW WHITEFORD DOWN THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD!

SUBMITTED BY SHARON VAN LOOCKE/PHOTOGRAPHS BY NATALIE MCCORMACK-RED TAIL PHOTOGRAPHY



L. Frank Baum wrote *The Wizard of Oz* in 1900. He then adapted it into a musical by 1902. First staged in Chicago, the show eventually made its way to The Majestic Theatre on Broadway on January 21, 1903. The actual motion picture wasn't released until August 25, 1939. This cinematic classic finally debuted on television on November 3, 1956, as we welcomed Dorothy and her stormy Kansas escapades into our homes and hearts.

Whiteford first staged this beloved story in 2005. It would be our 3rd musical production we brought to our Gymnatorcafetesarium/Band Room stage! 18 years later, the story hasn't changed, and yet again, our 68 cast members were nothing short of pure magic!

Yes, we had 68 students from 3rd on up to 12th grade. There were 30 total 8th through 12th graders alone. Out of that 30, we had 11 students courageously making their stage debut! We have a great feeling that the Whiteford Theatre program is as strong as ever!

Thank you to the many helping hands throughout the rehearsals and performances for keeping this whirlwind of a show on track! We'd simply lose our brains without you.

Many thanks to those who filled the seats each night, bought the Yellow Bricks for their stars, donated to the "Wizard Wishes" campaign, and those who took a chance on the raffle tickets. As always, you have proven that our Bobcat community has the biggest hearts.

While we are already contemplating next year's show, the memories of this cast, this team, the tears, the laughter, the SHOES....will forever remind us that there truly is NO PLACE LIKE HOME.

