

WHITEFORD AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent of Schools



SUPERINTENDENT FAMILY BULLETIN
DECEMBER 4, 2022

GREETING

Hey, Bobcat Families and Staff! As an educator and parent, my heart still hurts for those involved in the Oxford High School shooting that occurred just over a year ago. We continue to make the safety of our students and staff a top priority. Some of the safety improvements were outlined in a [Safety Presentation 11-14-22](#) at the November 14 Board of Education Meeting. As a school district, we understand the importance of creating a partnership with parents/guardians to convey a common message to our students about threats of violence in our school district. Any threat, no matter how big or small, is illegal and will be investigated. Threats against the safety of our learning community are never a joke, and law enforcement and school leaders will continue to take action to protect our learning community, including suspension, expulsion, and possibly prosecution. Please have a conversation with your student(s) about the severe consequences for making threats of violence. The Monroe County Prosecuting Attorney, Michael G. Roehrig, announces a response to the latest round of threats of school violence in Michigan, outlined below. We must encourage our students to communicate concerns they may have with social media posts or conversations with classmates. If they see or hear something - say something! Students should talk with their parent/guardian, staff member, trusted adult, and our school SRO, Deputy Brandon Benes. Additionally, anyone can report a concern using the OK2SAY anonymous reporting system available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at: <https://www.michigan.gov/ok2say/>

MONROE COUNTY PROSECUTOR PRESS RELEASE

Monroe County Prosecuting Attorney Michael G. Roehrig announces (11/18) a response to the latest round of threats of school violence. These new offenses may be related to the upcoming one-year anniversary of the murder of four teens at Oxford High School in November, 2021. In the Oxford case, a 16-year-old recently was convicted as an adult of 24 crimes, including first-degree murder and terrorism causing death. He faces life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Sadly, Oxford is just one example of the epidemic of gun violence in the United States. There were 42 school attacks in 2021, and dozens more this year. The number of children, educators, and others who have been killed or wounded is in the hundreds. Even beyond the dead and wounded, since the infamous attack at Columbine High School in April of 1999, more than 320,000 students have experienced gun violence at 340 schools across the nation. The loss of life – along with the debilitating grief of those left behind, the shock, the fear – should be more than enough to force an end to this unimaginable threat to public safety. Yet, every week we are compelled to endure another chapter in this macabre story.

And then there are the copy-cat threats issued by people who threaten to murder and maim, frighten, and disrupt. Even in the face of tragedy, these people pursue evil rather than good. In the weeks following the Oxford shooting, some 80 Michigan schools were forced to close amid threats of violence. In a selfish, sadistic way, maybe the culprits find the threats funny, or think it's a way to make themselves feel important. Maybe they simply see it as a way to get out of school for a day or two. But making threats of violence is a crime. The crime of intentionally threatening to commit an act of violence with a dangerous weapon against a school (students, staff or school property) is a felony punishable by 10 years in prison.

Members of the law enforcement community take these threats seriously and will work together to find and apprehend these people. As the chief law enforcement officer of Monroe County, Prosecutor Michael Roehrig reminds everyone that “the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office will prosecute offenders and bring the full weight of the criminal justice system to bear in holding them accountable.” The advice given to anyone (teenager or otherwise) who might consider making a threat against students, staff or school property is simple – “don’t do it.” Roehrig, added, “Think before you act. Think of the impact of your actions. Everyone wants to be unique. If you want to be unique, if you want to be known...do something good.”

FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

It was very impressive to see the number of Whiteford community members that showed up for the MHSAA State Football Championship at Ford Field on Friday (11/23) to see our boys win the State Football Championship! I know our student-athletes and coaches were excited and pumped by the large crowd from Whiteford. It is such a great accomplishment, and we are all proud to be a Bobcat! You can purchase Championship gear here: <https://whsstatechamps.itemorder.com/shop/home/> by Thursday, December 8.

MSVMA REGION C HONORS CHOIR

Alena Ellis, Dylan Anderson, and Seamus Waterford represented Whiteford High School at the Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) Region "C" District Honors Choir on Saturday, December 3rd at Monroe High School. They were accepted based upon their excellent audition scores at the district competition. Seamus Waterford earned a spot on the MSVMA State Honors Choir with his audition on Saturday. Congratulations to Alena, Dylan, and Seamus for their accomplishment! Mr. Todd Schreiber continues to serve as the Whiteford Choir Director.

BUSING UPDATE

We are excited to announce that Ali Lake has been hired to fill the open bus driver position for Route 4. However, due to bus driver vacations this week, we will not be fully staffed until December 13. We will be sharing more details about the bus schedule in the coming week as we move back to a fully staffed department, but for now, we are still operating under the current schedule. With a fully staffed department and a few substitute drivers, there will still be transportation issues that will lead to the cancellation of routes or double bus runs. We will do our best to give families sufficient notification of changes. Please contact Charlie Butz at: cbutz@whiteford.k12.mi.us with questions.

COMMENCEMENT

At the November 14 Board of Education meeting, the 2023 Commencement date and time was approved for Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 7pm. Commencement will be held at Crossroads Community Church. Please make note that it is being held on a Thursday. The decision to move it to a Thursday was based upon athletic team/individuals MHSAA tournament participation as well as the consideration that Whiteford Commencement had been held traditionally on a Thursday prior to changing a few years ago. Regardless of the day of the week, we hope family and friends will be able to join us in celebrating the Senior Class of 2023!

NFHS NETWORK

Whiteford High School gymnasium now has the capability of live streaming sporting events through the NFHS Network. You can watch high school sports and events nationwide, live and on demand, via the **NFHS Network for any schools that participate**. If you are interested in learning more regarding cost and game schedules, please check it out here: <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/>

GO FAN DIGITAL TICKETING

Since 2020, the MHSAA has gone solely to a cashless entry process through Go Fan for all tournament games/contests. At Whiteford, we have been able to utilize this process with the success of our sports programs over the past few years. Beginning this winter sports season, Whiteford will be utilizing this process for all levels of winter sports for regular season games. Spectators and fans will be required to purchase a game/contest ticket through the Go Fan App using the Whiteford QR Code supplied on our district website or ticket gate location, or by using a debit/credit card reader at the ticket gate. We will no longer be accepting cash payments. Many schools across the state and area have switched to this digital system without much of an issue, and we believe that our fan base is ready for this move to a cashless system. We will still honor individual and family passes, and ticket prices remain the same for the winter season.

DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Education meeting is December 12, 2022. The Regular meeting will begin at 6:15pm in the MS/HS Bobcat Den. The Board of Education Agendas & Minutes can be found here: [BOE Agenda & Minutes](#)

BREAKFAST/LUNCH MENUS

<https://whiteford.nutrislice.com/menu>

SCHOOL CALENDAR

2022-2023 School Calendar

THIS WEEK

December 5-16 NWEA Benchmarking Assessment Window
December 6 Whiteford Rec Meeting 7pm MS/HS Media Center
December 9 Varsity/JV Girls Basketball vs Erie Mason 5:30pm

NEXT WEEK

December 12 MS Boys Basketball vs Adrian Madison 4:30pm
December 12 Varsity/JV Boys Basketball at St. Mary Catholic Central 5:30pm
December 12 Varsity/JV Girls Basketball at Summerfield 5:30pm
December 12 Board of Education Meeting 6:15pm Bobcat Den
December 14 MS Boys Basketball at Summerfield 5pm
December 15 Varsity/JV Boys Basketball at Adrian Madison 5:30pm
December 15 KG-2nd Grade Winter Musical 6pm High School Gym
December 15 3rd-5th Grade Winter Musical 7:15pm High School Gym
December 16 Varsity/JV Girls Basketball vs Adrian Madison 5:30pm

UPCOMING

December 18 HS Winter Band/Choir Concert 3pm High School Gym
December 19 Elem Spirit-Holiday Character
December 19 MS Winter Band/Choir Concert 7pm High School Gym
December 20 Elem Spirit-Tacky Sweater
December 20 Whiteford Parent Association Meeting 6pm Elementary Cafeteria
December 21 Elem Spirit-Whiteout
December 22 Elem Spirit-Pajamas
December 22 Half-Day Early Release MS/HS 11am, Elementary 11:10am
December 23-Jan. 2 No School-Winter Break
January 3 Whiteford Rec Meeting 7pm MS/HS Media Center
January 16 No School-Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 19 Half-Day Early Release MS/HS 11am, Elementary 11:10am
January 20 K-5th Grades Assembly Jim "Basketball" Jones 8:30am High School Gymnasium
January 20 6-8th Grades Assembly Jim "Basketball" Jones 9:30am High School Gymnasium
January 20 Half-Day Early Release MS/HS 11am, Elementary 11:10am
January 20 End of 2nd Quarter
February 8 Count Day
February 17 Half-Day Early Release MS/HS 11am, Elementary 11:10am
February 17 Teacher Professional Development 12-3pm
February 20 No School-Presidents Day
February 21 Half-Day Early Release MS/HS 11am, Elementary 11:10am
February 21 Teacher Professional Development 12-3pm
February 21 Parent-Teacher Conferences 4-7pm

We are better together - We are Whiteford!



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