

# Bobcat Tales

Whiteford Agricultural Schools  
6655 Consear Road  
Ottawa Lake, MI 49267

CAR-RT PRESORT  
BULK RATE  
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Nonprofit Org.  
Permit #7

## POSTAL CUSTOMER

Whiteford School District  
Ottawa Lake, MI 49267



Editor: Stephanie Cavanaugh  
734-856-1443, ext. 106

## 2019-2020 SCHOOL HOURS / CALENDAR

Building	Starting Time	Ending Time	Early Dismissal Time
Elementary .....	7:55 AM .....	3:08 PM .....	11:10 AM
Middle/High School.....	7:55 AM .....	2:55 PM .....	11:00 AM

Aug. 28..... Open House  
(5:00 PM—6:30 PM)

Sept. 3 ..... First Day of School  
(students report at Noon)

Sept. 27 ..... EARLY DISMISSAL

Oct. 31 ..... EARLY DISMISSAL

Nov. 6-7 ..... EARLY DISMISSAL

Nov. 6-7 ..... Parent/Teacher Conf.

Nov. 27 ..... EARLY DISMISSAL  
(Thanksgiving Break)

Nov. 28-29 ..... NO SCHOOL  
(Thanksgiving Break)

Dec. 23-  
Jan. 3..... NO SCHOOL  
(Christmas / Winter Break)

Jan. 20..... NO SCHOOL  
(Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Feb. 25..... EARLY DISMISSAL

Apr. 3 ..... EARLY DISMISSAL  
(Spring Break)

Apr. 6-10..... NO SCHOOL  
(Spring Break)

May 25 ..... NO SCHOOL  
(Memorial Day)

June 4-5\* ..... EARLY DISMISSAL

June 5\* ..... 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.

### 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—11:30 AM

#### Zion Lutheran Church

2nd/4th Tuesday of Month  
9 AM—1 PM

# WHITEFORD AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS Bobcat Tales

This newsletter is also available on the district's website: [www.whiteford.k12.mi.us](http://www.whiteford.k12.mi.us)

August 2019

## Whiteford Agricultural Schools Bond Proposal

# VOTE NOVEMBER 5!



Images above are a visual and illustrative representation of projects in the 2019 Bond Proposal and not final renderings.

Learn more about the proposal in this  
special edition of Bobcat Tales!





Superintendent  
of Schools  
VALERIE ORR

Board of  
Education

President  
Tracy Malhoit

Vice President  
Dave Dixon

Secretary  
Christine Bischoff

Treasurer  
Doug Bulmer

Trustees  
Shane Hillard  
Mike Iott  
Kristi Mock

Upcoming  
Board of  
Education Meetings  
6:00 PM

September 9, 2019  
October14, 2019  
November 11, 2019  
December 9, 2019

High School Library

District  
Mission / Vision

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

We are Whiteford!

SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE...

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATTERS!! That is the theme that has guided our school improvement work at the MS/HS building over the last few years. By now, we are hoping that students and parents have noticed the emphasis that has been placed on improving the educational experience for our middle school students. Middle School (grades 6-8) is a distinct developmental phase in a child’s life and the perfect time to set up kids to thrive. In her book, *Middle School Matters: the 10 key skills kids need to thrive in Middle School & Beyond – And how parents can help*, professional counselor Phyllis Fagell states, “Though the transition from childhood to adolescence can be tough for kids, this time of rapid physical, intellectual, moral, social, and emotional change is a unique opportunity to proactively build character and confidence.” As educators and parents, we know that MIDDLE SCHOOL MATTERS, but what can we do to help our students understand this as well?

Our work in this area started several years ago with a data dig that confirmed for us that students struggle to see the importance of their time in middle school because credit is not awarded for the successful completion of classes as it is in the high school. The truth is that there is a high correlation between a student’s middle school grade point average and their high school grade point average. This tells us that the habits students develop during their middle school years have a strong effect on their high school career. Students who have low grade point averages in middle school because they believe middle school “doesn’t count”, most always have a low grade point average in high school when it does count. Again, MIDDLE SCHOOL MATTERS.

Our first step was to revamp the middle school courses and give students more choice as to what courses they wanted to take. New courses such as Spanish, STEM, Genius Hour, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leaders were offered to students as new elective opportunities. These courses were geared toward the most desired career pathways and were created to help our students be better prepared for a future in those careers. For the first time, we also allowed middle school students to choose their courses in the same fashion as high school students, with the hopes that students would see the connection between their middle school courses and what career pathway they wanted to explore. The courses were also designed to help middle school students build character and confidence, important traits to their social emotional development.

The work did not end with elective courses. Over the past few years, instructional coaches and middle school teachers have worked together to redesign middle school Math and English courses, so they are more rigorous, aligned to state standards, and more engaging for students. Together with the Instructional Coach, Mrs. Mitchey, our 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, Mrs. Haley & Mr. Manley worked to evaluate the 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum and make changes to address the changing needs of our students. That work has paid off. Student achievement results at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level have sky-rocketed. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Spring 2018 MSTEP scores led the county in both Math and English and were well above the state average. Changes to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math curriculums have also proven to increase state assessments scores within those grade levels. Our Math Coach, Mrs. Anderson, led this work with Mr. Stevens and Mrs. Antal this past year and we are very proud of the significant improvement in their student outcomes. Mr. DeSilvis and Mr. Simmons have also worked hard to change the middle school social studies curriculum to include more literacy skills.

While students may feel that middle school is a means to end, Whiteford is working hard to change their mindset to knowing that MIDDLE SCHOOL MATTERS. Whether we are working with our students to start exploring their career pathway interests or redesigning courses to better meet their needs, we know we are doing great things at the middle school level that will have a lasting impact for our students. The skills, attitudes, and habits that students develop in middle school will set them up for success in high school. We are excited for the future of our students. Parents, please help us by continuing this message at home....MIDDLE SCHOOL MATTERS! Have a great year Bobcats!!!

Sincerely,

Valerie Orr

Superintendent



2019 MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES

dates and times subject to change without notice

Varsity Football

Thurs ..8/29 .....Blissfield..... Away... 7:00 PM  
Fri .....9/6..... Stryker ..... Away... 7:00 PM  
Fri..... 9/13..... Schoolcraft ..... Home ...7:00 PM  
Fri..... 9/20..... Madison ..... Home ...7:00 PM  
Fri .....9/27 ..... Morenci..... Away... 7:00 PM  
Fri..... 10/4..... Sand Creek ..... Home ...7:00 PM  
Fri .....10/11 ... Clinton ..... Away... 7:00 PM  
Fri..... 10/18... Britton-Macon ..... Home ...7:00 PM  
Fri..... 10/25... Summerfield ..... Home ...7:00 PM

J.V. Football

Wed... 8/28..... Blissfield ..... Home ...7:00 PM  
Thur.... 9/5..... Gabriel Richard Catholic..... Home ...6:00 PM  
Fri..... 9/13..... Schoolcraft ..... Home ...4:00 PM  
Thurs.. 9/19..... Madison ..... Home ...6:00 PM  
Thurs.. 9/26..... Morenci ..... Home ...6:00 PM  
Thurs ..10/3... Sand Creek ..... Away... 6:00 PM  
Thurs.. 10/10... Clinton ..... Home ...6:00 PM  
Thurs.. 10/17... Grass Lake ..... Home ...6:00 PM  
Thurs ..10/24... Summerfield ..... Away... 6:00 PM

Middle School Football

- 7th grade team plays first, followed by 8th grade team (unless noted otherwise)

Wed ..9/11 .....Summerfield (Scrimmage)..... Away... 4:30 PM  
Wed ..9/18..... Madison ..... Away... 4:30 PM  
Wed... 9/25..... Morenci ..... Home ...4:30 PM  
Thurs ..10/3... Sand Creek ..... Away... 4:30 PM  
Wed... 10/09... Clinton ..... Home ...4:30 PM  
Wed ..10/16 ... Pittsford (8th grade) ..... Away... 5:00 PM  
Wed ..10/16... Britton-Macon(7th grade) ..... Away... 6:00 PM  
Wed ..10/23... Summerfield ..... Away... 4:30 PM

Varsity Cross Country

Tues... 8/27..... Nick Haynes Inv. ....Home ....5:00 PM  
Tues ...9/3..... Hudson .....Away.....5:00 PM  
Tues... 9/10..... TCC Jamboree at Stoneco .....Home ....5:00 PM  
Sat .....9/14..... Fayette Invitational .....Away...9:00 AM  
Tues ...9/17..... Blissfield Invitational .....Away.....5:00 PM  
Sat .....9/21 ..... Cardinal Stritch Inv.  
at Maumee Bay State Park ....Away....8:00 AM  
Tues ...9/24..... TCC Jamb. at Summerfield ... Away....5:00 PM  
Sat ..... 9/28 ..... Clinton at Rustic Glen..... Away ....9:00 AM  
Mon ... 9/30 .....MS Meet at Morenci..... Away ....4:30 PM  
Mon .... 10/7 .....Madison Invitational ..... Away ....5:00 PM  
Thur..... 10/10 ...Sand Creek MS Invite ..... Away ....4:30 PM  
Tues .... 10/15 ...TCC Jamboree at Hudson ..... Away ....5:00 PM  
Mon .... 10/21 ...Sand Creek MS/HS Invite..... Away ....4:30 PM

J.V. / Varsity Volleyball

Thurs ..8/22 .....Arbor Preparatory (JV/V) ..... Away .... 5:00 PM  
Sat .....8/24 .....Summerfield Bulldog Inv..... Away ... 8:00 AM  
Mon ...8/26 .....Dundee ..... Away .... 5:30 PM  
Tues ...9/3 .....Blissfield ..... Away .... 5:30 PM  
Tues ...9/9 .....Clinton ..... Away .... 5:00 PM  
Tues ...9/10..... Sand Creek ..... Home.... 5:00 PM  
Tues ...9/17 .....Jerome ..... Away .... 5:00 PM  
Tues ...9/24 .....Morenci ..... Away .... 5:00 PM  
Thurs ..9/26..... Summerfield ..... Home.... 5:00 PM  
\*\* (Varsity match first; JV match follows)  
Tues ...10/1 .....Madison (V DH) ..... Home.... 5:00 PM  
Thurs ..10/3..... Britton-Macon (JV DH)..... Home.... 5:00 PM  
Tues ...10/8 .....Sand Creek ..... Away .... 5:00 PM  
Thusr ..10/10..... Clinton ..... Home.... 5:00 PM  
\*\* (Varsity match first; JV match follows)  
Sat .....10/12 .....Lenawee Christian Invite (V).. Away ....8:30 AM  
Thurs ..10/17..... Madison (JV DH) ..... Home.... 5:00 PM  
Tues ...10/22..... Morenci ..... Home.... 5:00 PM  
Thur ....10/24 .....Summerfield (side by side) ..... Away .... 5:00 PM  
Tues ...10/29 .....Britton-Macon (V DH) ..... Away .... 5:00 PM

Middle School Volleyball

Mon .... 9/9 .....Clinton ..... Away .... 4:30 PM  
Wed .... 9/11 .....Ottaw Hills..... Home.... 4:30 PM  
Mon .... 9/16 .....Madison ..... Away .... 4:30 PM  
Wed .... 9/18..... Britton-Macon ..... Home.... 4:30 PM  
Mon .... 9/23..... Clinton ..... Home.... 4:30 PM  
Wed .... 9/25 .....Morenci ..... Away .... 4:30 PM  
Mon .... 9/30 .....Britton-Macon ..... Away .... 4:30 PM  
Mon .... 10/7 .....Sand Creek ..... Home.... 4:30 PM  
Wed .... 10/9 .....Summerfield ..... Home.... 4:30 PM  
Wed .... 10/16... Madison..... Home.... 4:30 PM  
Sat ..... 10/26 ...Sand Creek Invite ..... Away ....8:00 AM

Middle School Cross Country

Tues .... 8/27.....Nick Haynes Inv..... Home.... 5:00 PM  
Tues .... 9/10.....TCC Jamboree at Stoneco .... Home.... 5:00 PM  
Sat ..... 9/14 .....Fayette Invitational..... Away ....9:00 AM  
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Thur..... 10/10 ...Sand Creek MS Invite ..... Away ....4:30 PM  
Tues .... 10/15 ...TCC Jamboree at Hudson ..... Away ....5:00 PM  
Mon .... 10/21 ...Sand Creek MS/HS Invite..... Away ....4:30 PM

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# FOOD SERVICE FAQs

**Can my child(ren) eat breakfast at school?** YES; breakfast is offered daily for all students from 7:30 AM—8:00 AM in the elementary cafeteria and 7:30 AM—7:55 AM in the middle/high school cafeteria.

**Where can I find the monthly menus?** An interactive menu from our food service provider can be found under the Food Service tab on the district's website (OUR DISTRICT / FOOD SERVICE / then scroll down to the MONTHLY MENUS heading). The menus provide many details regarding the food items served in the district (i.e., nutritional information, allergens, etc.).

**How much does breakfast and/or lunch cost?** Prices for the 2018-2019 school year are:

Milk (grades K-12).....	\$0.50	Elementary Lunch .....	\$2.75 (\$.40 reduced)
Breakfast (grades K-12) .....	\$1.10 (\$.30 reduced)	MS/HS Lunch .....	\$3.10 (\$.40 reduced)

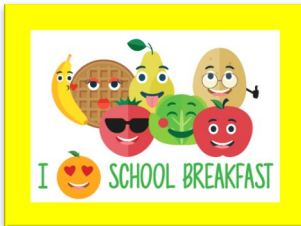
**Where can I find an application for Free/Reduced Price Meals?** Families are encouraged to annually submit applications for free or reduced priced meals—this includes breakfast and lunch. If you have an Internet connection available, you may find it more convenient to complete the application online at [www.lunchapp.com](http://www.lunchapp.com). A link to this site is available on the district's website (OUR DISTRICT / FOOD SERVICE / then scroll down to the right under the IMPORTANT LINKS heading). A paper copy of the application is also available by contacting your child's respective building office.

**What is the Meal Magic® Point of Sale System?** Whiteford Schools utilizes a computerized sale system for breakfast and lunch sales, which greatly benefits students, parents and staff alike. Each student has their own account and funds stay with the student until they graduate or leave the district. The most efficient use of the Meal Magic® POS system is to put money on your child's account on a regular basis to insure sufficient funds are available for all meal sales.

**What happens if my child has a negative balance on their account?** Students will be provided with an alternate meal that meets all established dietary requirements should they not have adequate funds to purchase a meal for the day; however, parents should note that they are responsible for the cost of any alternate meals provided to their child(ren). These balances must be paid in full as soon as possible.

**How do I know if my child is in the negative or has a low balance?** You can view account balances 24/7 at [meal-magic.whiteford.k12.mi.us/mealmagic/mylunchaccount](http://meal-magic.whiteford.k12.mi.us/mealmagic/mylunchaccount). A link to this site is available on the district's website (OUR DISTRICT / FOOD SERVICE / then scroll down to the right under the IMPORTANT LINKS heading).

**Who do I contact if I have questions regarding my child's account?** Mrs. Diane Kaiser at 734.856.1443, ext. 106 or via email at [diane.kaiser@whiteford.k12.mi.us](mailto:diane.kaiser@whiteford.k12.mi.us). She can also assist you with setting spending limits or restrictions on purchases for your child.



## GIVE YOUR CHILD A HEALTHY START!

Mornings can be rushed, but it is important to make time for breakfast. Children can benefit from the School Breakfast Program! Studies show that school breakfast can improve test scores, make kids more alert in class, and improve classroom behavior. Make sure your kids start the school day with a healthy meal!

Breakfast is offered daily for all students from 7:30 AM—8:00 AM in the elementary building and 7:30 AM—7:55 AM in the middle/high school building.

Prices for the 2018-2019 school year are:	Milk (grades K-12) .....	\$0.50
	Breakfast (grades K-12) .....	\$1.10 (\$.30 reduced)

# Thank you voters for your support!

## Capital Improvement projects are under way!



### HOW TO CONTACT US

#### MAIN PHONE

734.856.1443

#### PHONE PROMPTS

- 4 Student Absences
- 5 Elementary Office
- 6 MS/HS Office
- 7 Athletic Dept.
- 8 Transportation
- 9 Superintendent/ Business Office/ Maintenance

#### ADMINISTRATION / SUPPORT SERVICES

**Superintendent**  
Valerie "Val" Orr  
ext. 101

**MS/HS Principal**  
Kelli Tuller  
ext. 102

**Elementary Principal**  
Micheale Shepherd  
ext. 104

**Director of Student Advancement/AD**  
Jason Mensing  
ext. 103

**Dean of Student Services/Career Coach**  
Stephanie Cavanaugh  
ext. 122

**District Counselor**  
Jennifer Head  
ext. 309

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

**Director of Finance & Business Services**  
Michelle Strick  
ext. 105

#### OFFICE FAXES

**Elementary Office**  
734-856-4724

**MS/HS Office**  
734-856-2564

**Superintendent / Business Office**  
734-854-6463



## IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL SHEPPERD, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

The 2019-20 School Year is opening on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 12:00 pm! With this event come many feelings of excitement and anticipation for a new year! Students return to see all of their friends that they've missed throughout the summer, and they get to meet their new teachers to begin another year in a new grade level. The teachers and staff are ready to get the year started with a new group of students and hit the ground running!

At Whiteford Elementary School we are also excited to introduce our staff members that have joined the Bobcat Family. They include a new K-2 resource room teacher Mrs. Jennifer Floyd-Kemritz, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher Miss Lauryn Horace. These educators bring experience and enthusiasm to their new placements, and we are honored to have them on board! Mrs. Katie Brunt has also moved into the third grade teaching role as she partners with Mrs. Linda Groch. This is due to Mrs. Shelly DeVantier taking on the new responsibility of the District Reading Specialist and seventh grade English teacher.

Additionally, we will be heading into this year focusing on the state legislation for our third graders; the "Read by Grade Three" law goes into effect. This means that by the end of this school year, these students will need to receive a Proficient rating on their Michigan State Reading Test, MSTEP. Students will be continually monitored and checked to make sure they are progressing at an appropriate pace to show their ability to master the third grade reading standards. Students in grades kindergarten through second grade will also continually be supported in our efforts to maintain our continued high level of growth and achievement.

Students will receive a welcome letter in the mail from their new teacher for the brand new school year that indicates their classroom placement. We hope to see everyone on Wednesday, August 28 from 5:00 – 6:30 pm to meet their teachers and visit their new classrooms for our Open House! We can't wait to greet everyone and see all the smiling faces!

## NEW PLAYGROUND FOR WHITEFORD ELEMENTARY BOBCATS

The elementary playground has a new look! As the 2019-20 school year begins, there will be a new recreational area for our elementary students. A long awaited and anticipated play structure has been installed along with the previously established basketball courts, four-square, and hopscotch hard surface spots. The students will have multiple play areas within this new structure that includes slides, climbing locations, bridges, swings, benches, and spaces that will spur imagination and creativity for new games, and activities. We are so excited to see the students play and enjoy this beautiful new addition to our school!



## NEW CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

Whiteford Middle/High School will be moving to a block schedule for the 2019-2020 school year. This change will impact the number of credits students can earn toward a Whiteford Agricultural School diploma. Previously, students had the possibility to earn 7 credits per year needing a total of 26 credits to earn a diploma from Whiteford. With the new schedule, students will have the possibility to earn 8 credits per year. Adjustments for the credit requirements that students need to earn a diploma are listed below for graduation years 2020-2022. Beginning with this year's freshman class (Class of 2023) and all graduating classes thereafter, students will have 32 credit attempts during their four years of high school and a total of 30 credits will be required for a WHS diploma.

Credit Requirements for Graduation  
Class of 2020—27 credits  
Class of 2021—28 credits  
Class of 2022—29 credits

*\*Please see the MS/HS Student Handbook for additional requirements for graduation.*

## PREPARATIONS FOR LIFE BEYOND THE WALLS OF WHITEFORD

*Submitted by Jason Mensing, Director of Student Advancement/Athletic Director*

As we get ready to begin the 2019-2020 school year, we have great anticipation for another great school year. It is not unusual for this anticipation to heighten as a student enters their Senior year. Many times, students and parents become nervous about the process and uncertainty of the journey from K-12 student into the college or career pathways (this includes military options) of adulthood. In preparation for these next steps, here are a few services that we will provide during this transition. Ultimately, it is critical to remember that the pathway, process, and timing for each student is different. We will continue to have conversations with every Senior about their goals, hopes, and plans for future years.

### September:

- Meet with all Seniors and get email information for the creation of a Senior listserv. We will send all scholarship information and program information through this listserv as we receive it.

### October:

- We will host a parent night to support parents on how to fill out FAFSA (forms for federal financial aid).
- We will have numerous college admission representatives in to discuss their schools options and programs.
- We will work with our seniors to complete the student portion of the FAFSA, and apply to at least one college to ensure they know how to complete a college application.

### December:

- We will host our annual "Mingling with Mocha" event in which we bring back former students to have open dialogue with our seniors about what their experience transitioning to their college or career.

### January:

- We will individually meet with all seniors to see what additional support or information they may need.

### April:

- Local scholarships (scholarship awards that go entirely to Whiteford students) applications are due and are awarded by our scholarship committee.

### May:

- **Decision Day**—This is a day in which our students make a commitment to the workforce, military, trades or college path that they have selected. Family, friends, community and the Whiteford student body is invited to celebrate with the soon to be graduates.
- **Graduation**— May 29, 2020. Location TBA.

# A TRIBUTE TO SOFTBALL COACHING LEGEND KRIS HUBBARD

Submitted by Jason Mensing, Director of Student Advancement/Athletic Director

As the son of a Coach and Athletic Director, I have spent most of my life surrounded by amazing coaches and mentors in the sports world. I was taught at a young age not to be in awe of these successful people, but rather to watch and learn from them as they possessed skills of work ethic, self-discipline, and the gift to inspire others that transcends sports. These skills would allow success in all fields and their gift to share that with young people is a chosen and noble act. During my eight years of coaching at Whiteford and three serving as Athletic Director, I have watched and tried to learn as much as I could from an amazing and legendary coach. Coach Kris Hubbard certainly possesses all of these attributes. She transcends sports as her focus and her desire to instruct the "total person" has always superseded the results of any of her teams. Coach Hubbard is direct and will tell you what is on her mind. However, she is comfortable agreeing to disagree and always has the best interest of the school and student athletes at mind. I believe the entire community is grateful for the time she has dedicated our community, our school, and our student athletes. I am grateful that her former players, community, and school has honored her by naming the softball field after her, establishing a scholarship in her name, and continuing to invest in her program as she is our legend. From establishing opportunities for our young women to participate in sports, to maintaining the epitome of expectations, to establishing unparalleled level of success that will not be replicated, Coach Hubbard is the example of work ethic, self discipline, and the gift to inspire others. The honors she has received are miniscule in correlation to the gifts that she has provided to our community. I am grateful that she will continue to work with our softball program and athletic program. Coach Hubbard has been, and will continue to be, a tremendous blessing to our community. I wanted to take this opportunity to be able to publicly thank her for her impact. I am simply in awe!



## ATTENTION 1969 WHS GRADUATES

The time has come (actually, has passed) for anyone who is thinking about attending our 50th (!) Class Reunion. Consider this last call (for the Bobcat Tales, anyway). PLEASE RSVP ASAP to Kathy Appling-Bella or John Vesey-Vesey.

We want you! We need you! We love you! (Maybe that is going a tad too far.) Many of us have known each other since KINDERGARTEN! Don't break the chain now. Hopefully, we'll see everyone in October.

Sandy Lynn-Surface  
1969 WHS Class Reunion Committee

**The WHS Class of 1969 Reunion will be held at Tekela's in Sylvania, OH on  
Saturday, October 5th  
3:00pm—?**

The menu is a taco buffet and good company. The cost is only \$15.00 per person. Can't beat that!

Please RSVP by email, phone or text to John Vesey at [jrvesey@gmail.com](mailto:jrvesey@gmail.com) or 269-808-7609. You can also RSVP to Kathy Appling-Bella at [kjbella51@yahoo.com](mailto:kjbella51@yahoo.com) or text 517.605.5221.

Thank you!  
**See everyone on October 5th!**

# WELCOME BACK MS/HS STUDENTS

SUBMITTED BY KELLII TULLER, MS/HS PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to another exciting year at Whiteford Middle/High School. The summer staff has been hard at work planning for the return of our students and staff and are all looking forward to meeting the newest Bobcats joining us this year. Additional staff members at the Middle/High School include Mr. Richard "RJ" Rios and Mrs. Monica Adams. Mr. Rios is the new physical/health education teacher and Mrs. Adams will join the mathematics department. They both have been seen around the building already preparing for a great year. At the start of school, we will also have new faces in the special education and science departments. Facilities will look a little different as well, as we have added a new gym floor and bleachers in the high school. And don't forget our new block schedule that will allow our students the greatest opportunities for personalized support during the school day. It is a great time to be a Bobcat!

This year has endless possibilities and I look forward to working with students, staff, families and our community to continue our commitment to providing a high-quality educational experience for all of our students. As I enter my thirteenth year as Principal of Whiteford Middle/High School, I reflect on how privileged I am to be working at a district where the school is the center of our community. "Whiteford Pride" runs deep and our community, families, and students exemplify this through their involvement and support of our numerous academic and extra-curricular programs and activities. Please watch for these programs and activities on our Facebook page, at [www.whiteford.k12.mi.us](http://www.whiteford.k12.mi.us) or in the Bobcat Tales. There is always something to do here or with our outstanding booster groups. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or are seeking opportunities to get involved here at school.

In closing, please know that students will kick off their school year with Registration Day August 26<sup>th</sup>. Information regarding time slots and necessary paperwork will be sent to all homes. Students and families are welcome to meet the teachers at our annual Open House on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm-6:30pm. Students will then be ready for the first day of school at noon on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

I look forward to seeing all of you!

-Ms. Tuller



## WHITEFORD RECREATION CLUB (WRC) NEWS

Flag football for first and second graders is the first activity of the 2018-2019 school year for the Whiteford Recreation Club.

The WRC, which is made up of Moms and Dads who volunteer to organize sports for children in our community, is looking for new volunteers to help.

The WRC Board of Trustees meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the high school library. Please join us and follow [facebook.com/WhitefordRec](https://facebook.com/WhitefordRec) for updates.



# Athletic Booster News

**Kroger Community Rewards Program:** If you have never registered your Kroger Plus Card in the Community Rewards Program to benefit Whiteford athletics, please take a few minutes to do so. Log into your account at [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com), click on the Community links until you reach the Rewards Program page. Enter the information requested including organization number 94596 to complete your registration. Remember, this is FREE money and will not affect your fuel points!

**Officers/Members Needed:** The Athletic Boosters are seeking new officers and members for 2019/20. Please contact Phil Bauman at 419-779-6863 or attend an upcoming meeting if you are interested. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month in the high school library.

**Sports Program/Website Ads:** The Athletic Boosters will once again be selling ads on our website and free programs that are handed out at the games. At its peak last year, our website, [www.whitefordbobcatsports.com](http://www.whitefordbobcatsports.com), received 7,000 hits a day, making it a good investment for our advertisers. Space is limited so please contact Phil Bauman at 419-779-6863 if you are interested.

# Whiteford Parents Association (WPA) News

Ready or not, here it comes-the 2019-2020 school year, that is! It seems like just a few weeks ago that the WPA was helping kick off summer break with its annual spring carnival but here we are already, heading back to school.

For those of you new to the district or just starting out with your first little Bobcat, welcome! For those of you who have been around the bus loop a few times now, welcome back! We're looking forward to another fun, rewarding year, doing what we do to help enrich the school experience for our kids and to provide them with additional activities and opportunities.

What exactly is it that we do? For starters, fundraising! Fundraising is crucial to the WPA's ability to provide what we do, and we'll kick off our annual Otis Spunkmeyer cookie dough sale in October. Last year, this fundraiser helped enable the WPA to purchase the new LED sign for the elementary school, bring COSI on wheels on-site, host a Daddy/daughter dance and mother/son night and provide scholarships for some of our graduating seniors, to name just a few things. This year, we'll do all of that (minus the new sign) plus take the entire elementary school to Ritter Planetarium in the spring.

The WPA is comprised of the four officers and a core group of 10 or so volunteers who come to the meetings and volunteer for events throughout the year. But we want to see some new faces this year! Currently, we are seeking to fill the positions of treasurer and secretary; ideally, the new officers will come onboard at our first meeting, shadow the current treasurer and secretary for this year, then take over their position next year. The current board consists of some moms who work full time but are flexible enough to come to the meetings each month, and some moms who started out when their firsts were just in kindergarten-so, no experience required! If you are passionate about the school, your children, and helping bring them the best school experience possible, we would love to see your interest!

Not interested in being an officer but want to be involved? Please attend our first meeting on Tuesday September 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:05, in the elementary school cafeteria (meetings are always held on the third Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise noted). The more hands on deck, the more we can do for our kids. We welcome moms, dads, grandparents, and anyone else willing to dedicate some of their time. No babysitter? No problem! Little ones not yet in school are also welcome to attend. We hope to see you on September 17th!

\*\*\*Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date with all our latest news, events, and volunteer opportunities. Simply search for Whiteford Parents' Association!

# Music Booster News

The Music Boosters has been busy over the summer. We teamed up with the district to purchase raincoats for the marching band to keep our students warm and dry this football season. Since we have record enrollment for marching band this year, the Music Boosters purchased five additional uniforms for our students as well. We are beginning to replace our marching drums for this season, as well as adding a marching euphonium. Thanks to the support of the district and our community for helping make all this happen!

Our booster organization has also helped Mr. Schreiber upgrade the stereo equipment in his room, which will benefit our choir students, as well as our elementary music program. We are so excited about this year's musical, "The Fiddler on the Roof," and we can't wait to see what our talented students will do with this show in March!


If you have a student involved in choir, band, or the musical, you are a part of the Music Boosters! We would love to invite you to attend one of our monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM in the teacher's lounge. Additionally, we could always use an extra hand in the concession stand at JV and varsity football games. Please contact Loel Holup to volunteer! 419-705-4677

We are so excited to launch our new website! Our very own Mr. Welling is not only a talented musician but has put together this awesome resource to help us communicate better with you. Please check out [wmboosters.org](http://wmboosters.org) for regular updates from the Music Boosters!

October 19th

WHITEFORD AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS

FOUNDERS



Day

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

TICKETS ARE \$25 PER PERSON

Dinner, Silent Auction, Live Auction, Raffles, Cash Bar

Bennett's Orchard

5647 Consear Rd., Ottawa Lake, MI

Tickets can be purchased in the High School Main office or by calling 734-856-1443

Doors open at 6:00 PM

Dinner begins at 7:00 PM

ANNUAL NOTICES

**AHERA—ASBESTOS:** As required by the Federal Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), this is inform you that the documentation for our District Asbestos Management Plan, the semiannual surveillance inspections (continued monitoring of remaining floor tile in our buildings) and the three-year re-inspection are available for your review in the Superintendent’s Office. Information regarding response actions may also be found in the District Asbestos Management Plan.

All questions relating to the District Asbestos Management Plan should be directed to **Valerie Orr**, Superintendent, at **734.856.1443, ext. 101**.

**CONCEALED WEAPONS:** State law establishes a “Weapon-Free School Zone” that extends 1,000 feet from the boundary of any school property.

The term "weapon" means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons. Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms, guns of any type, including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and explosives.

As a School District, we have policies prohibiting the possession of weapons on school property, buildings and at school events. Obviously, weapons are not appropriate in a school environment.

These restrictions shall not apply in the following circumstances to persons who are properly licensed to carry a concealed weapon:

- A. A parent or legal guardian of a student of the school may carry a concealed weapon while in a vehicle on school property, if s/he is dropping the student off at the school or picking up the child from the school.
- B. A county corrections officer, a member of a Sheriff's posse, a police or sheriffs reserve or auxiliary officer, a State Department of Corrections parole or corrections officer, a private investigator, a Michigan State Police motor carrier officer or Capitol security officer, a State court judge, a security officer required by the employer to carry a concealed weapon while on the premises;
- C. A retired police or law enforcement officer or a retired State court judge.

These are very limited exceptions and do not change the district policy that firearms, pistols and other dangerous weapons are prohibited on school property. Parents and legal guardians are strongly discouraged from bringing concealed weapons on school property even while in a vehicle for pick-up or drop-off of their student.

We urge those individuals authorized to carry a weapon to refrain from doing so while in a vehicle in respect for the safety of our students.

**PETS ON DISTRICT GROUNDS:** Students play and conduct class and athletic practices on district grounds on a regular basis. Please help us keep our grounds clean and clear of pet debris by not bringing your pet on the district's grounds. ALL animals (except service animals) are prohibited from being on school property unless approved by the administration.

**SCHOOL ZONES:** Parents, student drivers and district residents are reminded of the reduced speed (25 mph) in posted “School Zones” on Consear and Sylvania-Petersburg Roads. The reduced speed is in effect from 7:30 AM—8:30 AM and 2:30 PM—3:30 PM. Fines are DOUBLED in these designated areas. To insure the safety of our children and those approaching the district buildings, please adhere to these speed limits.

**USE OF TOBACCO ON SCHOOL PREMISES:** In compliance with P.A. 140 of 1993, no person at anytime shall smoke, chew, or otherwise use tobacco products, of any kind, in any school building, at school sponsored events, on School District property, on property under the control of the School District, nor in School District vehicles. This policy is in effect twenty-four (24) hours a day, 365 days a year.

**WATER QUALITY COMPLIANCE SUMMARY:** Due to amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399, K-12 schools and day care facilities that are non-transient, non-community water supplies are required to prepare and make available for inspection an annual water quality report from the previous calendar year.

A copy of the report is available for inspection in the Office of the Superintendent, Whiteford Schools, 6655 Consear Road, Ottawa Lake, MI 49267. All questions relating to the water quality compliance report should be directed to **Valerie Orr**, Superintendent, at **734.856.1443, ext. 101**.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, and reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible State or local Agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information is available in languages other than English.

To file a complaint alleging discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

**Mail:**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

**Email:** [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)  
**Fax:** (202) 690-7442

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

BULLYING POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Any student who believes s/he has been or is the victim of bullying, hazing, or other aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the Principal or Dean of Student Services. The student may also report concerns to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. Complaints against the building principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports shall be made to those identified above. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action may not be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

The Principal (or other administrator as designated) shall promptly investigate and document all complaints about bullying, aggressive or other behavior that may violate this policy. The investigation must be completed as promptly as the circumstances permit.

If the investigation finds an instance of bullying or aggressive behavior has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial action. This may include up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers and contractors, and removal from any official position and/or a request to resign for Board members. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement or other appropriate officials.

The individual responsible for conducting the investigation shall document all reported incidents and report all verified incidents of bullying, aggressive or other prohibited behavior, as well as any remedial action taken, including disciplinary actions and referrals, to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall submit a compiled report to the Board on an annual basis.

\* The full policy for **Bullying and Other Aggressive Behavior Toward Students** can be found on our website. Policy 5517.01



# Breaking Down the November 5 Bond Proposal

## What are some of the goals of the proposed bond?

- Creating modern facilities that are safe, engaging, and built for the future
- Guiding our students into their future careers with technology-driven learning environments
- Cultivating spaces that reflect the excellence of our agriculture, music, art, and athletic programs

### IMPROVING OUR SCHOOLS

- New spaces for future-focused agricultural programs
- Upgraded art, band, and choir room additions
- Flexible facilities that address participation needs and meet MHSAA regulations

### ADDRESSING SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Essential safety & security upgrades to provide students, faculty, parents, and the community safe places to learn
- Improved ADA accessibility to ensure all individuals and community members can safely access athletic facilities

### KEEPING STRIDE WITH THE PACE OF TECHNOLOGY

- Modernized technology upgrades and installation to prepare students for high-demand career fields (i.e. STEM)
- Enriched spaces that encourage collaboration and hands-on learning

### PROPOSED COST PER HOUSEHOLD

Market Value of Home	Estimated Cost
\$150,000	\$8.63 per month
\$200,000	\$11.50 per month
\$250,000	\$14.38 per month

If approved by voters, this table illustrates the approximate additional cost per household based on the estimated increase of 1.38 mills. This increase would allow the district to accomplish projects

For more information, visit  
[www.whiteford.k12.mi.us/bond](http://www.whiteford.k12.mi.us/bond)



## What are some of the features of the \$15.4 million program?

<b>SAFETY &amp; SECURITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New bus loop to enhance traffic flow and student safety during pick up and drop off</li> <li>• Continue to improve secure entrances at elementary and high schools</li> <li>• Campus ADA accessibility improvements</li> </ul>
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restroom renovation at all buildings</li> <li>• New high school septic field</li> <li>• Maintenance upgrades at all schools</li> <li>• High school parking lot expansion</li> </ul>
<b>ARTS &amp; MUSIC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Band and choir room additions</li> <li>• Art room addition including kiln room for pottery instruction</li> <li>• Band and choir practice spaces</li> <li>• New band instruments and choir piano</li> </ul>
<b>WORK-BASED LEARNING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture classroom and laboratory upgrades and renovations</li> <li>• Dedicated STEM classroom and laboratory</li> <li>• Collaborative space for individualized learning and study groups</li> <li>• Media center upgrades and revitalization</li> <li>• Science lab relocation and upgrades</li> </ul>
<b>ATHLETICS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New track and field facility including rubber track installation</li> <li>• New multipurpose facility which includes an expanded weight training facility</li> <li>• Football field bleacher upgrades</li> </ul>

## How does this bond affect our current millage rate?

Whiteford Agricultural Schools is currently levying 2.55 mills per the 2002 bond and 1.0 mills as a sinking fund. Because the final levy of the sinking fund millage will be on December 1, 2019, the new proposed bond amount is estimated to reflect a 1.38 mill net increase which would result in a net total of 4.93 mills being levied against homeowners within the community.

