

# WHITEFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## FAMILY NEWSLETTER

May 10, 2024

Hello, Bobcat Families!

Where did the year go? As we head into the home stretch, there are many wonderful field trips, fundraisers, and events planned. Send your student in with a fun **hat and \$1 every Wednesday in May** (starting May 8th) to support our sweet Derby; stop in to the Whiteford FFA Greenhouse for some beautiful flowers; sign your child(ren) up for some amazing summer youth athletic camps (flyers with more details and link for online payment below)...so many excellent opportunities and ways to get involved!

The United Way and Salvation Army are again teaming up to help children in Monroe County with getting school supplies for next school year! Attached below is a letter and a referral form for all students. There is no income verification for families, so **ANY** student in need may request a backpack filled with supplies for the 2024-2025 school year. Simply fill out the form below and return it to the Salvation Army per the instructions on the form. Don't hesitate to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity!

If you plan to have your child ride the bus next year, it is mandatory that you fill out and return a Transportation Request Form and return it to school by June 1, 2024. If you do not fill out and return it to school, your child(ren) will not be assigned to a bus route for the 2024-2025 school year. You can access a Transportation Request Form here: [Transportation Request Form](#). Additionally, they can be found on our website under the Transportation and New Student Registration Tab. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please be reminded that the Growing Tree After School Program is expanding its services. The program will now include a summer child care program for children entering kindergarten through 6th grade. Check out the flyer below for more information.

Please review the "Important Dates" section at the bottom and keep reading the teacher newsletters for all the important upcoming activities and special events.

Wishing you well,



Marcy Anderson  
Elementary Principal



**SALVATION ARMY BACKPACKS FOR KIDS LETTER**

Brian Peddle  
General

William A. Bamford  
Territorial Commander



Colonial John Turner  
Divisional Commander

(Founded in 1865 by William Booth)

Major Wayne Ruston  
Major Tracy Ruston  
Corps Officers/Pastor's

**THE SALVATION ARMY**  
***Campus of Hope / Family Manor***  
815 East First  
Monroe, MI 48161  
734-241-0440  
Fax - 734-241-7181

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

To Parents of Monroe County children:

"Supplying Our Future" Backpacks for Kids in Monroe County is a group of caring people who are working to make sure every child K-12 has the school supplies necessary to start school. In this trying economy, we know there are those who need a backpack filled with the necessary supplies for school. On the other side of this letter is an application that can be turned in at The Salvation Army for your child/children for the up-coming school year. We do not require income information on the application.

We understand seeking assistance is not always easy, rest assured there are many caring people and agencies working together to help your family during these tough times. We have distribution events planned throughout the county to make it easier for you to get these needed supplies. Please check which site will be convenient for you. We will have food and fun activities planned. If your family could benefit from this program, please fill out the application and turn it in. We will have information from many agencies that work with families available.

If you do not need assistance but would like to come to the fun back to school events you are still welcome to come. If you are able to assist us with donations to this program, we would be happy to accept them.

If you want further information on this program, you may call The Salvation Army at 734-241-0440 ext 103. We are working hard to make a successful start for the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

*Wayne Ruston*

Major Wayne Ruston  
Corps Officer  
The Salvation Army  
Supplying Our Future Co-Chair

*Collin Keehn*

Collin Keehn  
AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison  
United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties  
Supplying Our Future Co-Chair



2024

**“Supplying Our Future”  
Backpacks for Kids in Monroe  
County**



Fill Out Referral – Check Correct Site and Return to The Salvation Army.

- Mail, The Salvation Army 815 E. First St, Monroe, MI 48161
- Scan and email the form to: [wayne.ruston@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:wayne.ruston@usc.salvationarmy.org)
- Fax form to 734-241-7181

Form must be received at the Salvation Army by **Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.**

*Please! Send the top portion only and keep the bottom portion as your reminder.*

**RETURN THIS PORTION**

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name	Gender	Grade K-12	Student Name	Gender	Grade K-12
_____	/	/	_____	/	/
_____	/	/	_____	/	/
_____	/	/	_____	/	/
_____	/	/	_____	/	/

**Back Pack Pick-Up Sites Are:**

- 1. Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> 4-6 pm. Bedford Branch Library. 8575 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182
- 2. Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> 11am – 2pm at The Salvation Army 815 E First Street, Monroe, MI 48161 – **Children’s Activities and Refreshments will be provided**

**KEEP THIS PORTION**

*Cut along the dotted line and keep this lower portion for your reminder.  
Please remember to check the same pick-up site as the above portion.  
Any Questions? Call Monroe County Salvation Army at 734-241-0440*

- 1. Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> 4-6 pm Bedford Branch Library. 8575 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182
- 2. Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> 11am – 2pm at The Salvation Army 815 E First Street, Monroe, MI 48161 – **Children’s Activities and Refreshments will be provided**

### **TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (TK)**

Based upon survey data collected from families in December/January and other considerations, we are moving forward with a Transitional Kindergarten (TK) classroom for the 2024-2025 school year. The program is designed for students who will turn 5 between May 1, 2024-December 1, 2024. Students who turn 5 before May 1, 2024 will also be considered based on screening results. The TK program is limited to 15-18 students. Parents who were unable to attend Kindergarten Round-Up with their student will need to contact the Elementary Principal, Ms. Anderson, at [anderson@whiteford.k12.mi.us](mailto:anderson@whiteford.k12.mi.us) or 734-856-1443 Ext.104 to set up a screening time for their child. We will begin contacting parents of students who meet the criteria for Transitional Kindergarten after May 1 to seek interest in enrolling in the Transitional Kindergarten program. You can access additional information by accessing [Transitional Kindergarten \(TK\) Information](#). Please contact Ms. Anderson if you have any questions about the program or setting up a screening time.

### **ELEMENTARY DRESS CODE**

Here is the elementary dress code as written in our student handbook which can be found on our website:

While fashion changes, the reason for being in school does not. Students are in school to learn. Any fashion (dress, accessory, or hairstyle) that disrupts the educational process or presents a safety risk will not be permitted.

If a student has selected a manner of appearance that is beyond mere freedom of expression and disrupts the educational process or presents risk to themselves or others, they may be removed from the educational setting.

The following guidelines for styles or manners of dress must be followed:

- A. All tops must have at least two inches of material on the top of their shoulders.
  - B. All shorts, skirts, and dresses must be appropriate in length.
  - C. Hats are to be removed as you step foot into the building or before. Hoods may not be put up to cover a student's head. Except for hats for Derby Day 😊
  - D. Shoes must be worn at all times. Flip flops are prohibited footwear at the elementary school.
- Students who are representing [the school] at an official function or public event may be required to follow specific dress requirements. Usually, this applies to athletic teams, cheerleaders, bands, and other such groups.



# Hats off to Derby!



## Let's Celebrate Derby in Style!

This is Derby's 4th year here at Whiteford and on May 5th we will be celebrating her 6th birthday!. We are so thankful for everything she does each and every day for our students, staff, and families. We want to celebrate her commitment to Whiteford and provide our school community the opportunity to show their love and appreciation for all she does!

**What: Every Wednesday in May, starting May 8th** - students can donate **\$1** and will be able to wear a school appropriate hat for the day. Students can give the donation to their classroom teachers in the morning.

Don't want to wear a hat but want to show your Derby love? There will be a spot to donate to Derby in front of the office. Funds raised will contribute to purchasing food, treats, monthly heart worm and flea treatments, necessary vet bills, etc.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity and support in ensuring that our school facility dog program continues to be a success!

## **DO YOU HAVE AN INCOMING KINDERGARTEN STUDENT?**

Entering kindergarten is such an exciting adventure - it's time to enroll your five or soon-to-be five year olds!

If you missed our screening day and would like to set up an appointment, please contact Marcy Anderson at [anderson@whiteford.k12.mi.us](mailto:anderson@whiteford.k12.mi.us).

For your child to enter kindergarten in the fall, the following items **must** be completed at registration time, and can be accessed on Whiteford's website under the "Student Registration" tab

- Certified Copy of the Child's Birth Certificate (MUST be presented to register)
- Registration Forms Completed (available on-site and online)
- Bi-lingual Information Completed
- Medical Information Form (MUST be turned in before the start of school)
- Proof of Residency (3 types)
  - Driver's License with correct Whiteford School District address
  - Paperwork from home purchase or rental agreement/lease
  - A current utility bill, (Gas, electric or landline phone bill --- a cell phone bill will not be accepted)
- Bus Transportation Form (If Applicable)

### **Note:**

**As of March 28th, we were notified by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services that we do not need to require the dental screening for the 2024-25 school year. This is different information that we had at our initial kindergarten round up day on March 14. We have since found out that because it is not being offered through the Monroe County Health Department at no cost to families, we do not need to require it this school year. If you happen to get it completed by your local dentist, please drop it off in the office and we will add it to your child's records though.**



# Whiteford FFA Greenhouse

**Where:** Whiteford High School  
6655 Consear Rd.  
Ottawa Lake, MI 49267  
**\*\*Parking lot off Sylvania-Petersburg**

Contact Information:  
Mr. Jake Gust  
**Email:** [jgust@whiteford.k12.mi.us](mailto:jgust@whiteford.k12.mi.us)  
**Cell:** 517-605-2209 or  
**School:** 734-856-1443 ext. 224



## **Open:**

Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> through  
Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>

## **Hours:**

Mon- Fri: 9 am-6 pm  
Sat. & Sun: 10 am-4 pm

\*\*Closed Memorial Day

**\*\*We are priced to sell this year and will NOT be offering an end-of-year sale**

## **What We Offer**

- Annual flowers: 10" Hanging baskets, wall bags, 4" pots, 48 flats
  - Vegetables in 48 flats
  - Perennials: Gallon or 4" pots
- \*Proceeds go to Whiteford FFA to help pay for student contests, conventions, program equipment & improvements



**WHITEFORD ATHLETIC SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS FLYER**

\*Please click the following link for the option to pay online:

<https://whitefordagmi.infinitecampus.org/campus/store/whiteford/school-store/2/5/products>



# Whiteford Athletic Youth Camps



GRADES LISTED ARE FOR 24-25 SCHOOL YEAR  
ALL REGISTRATIONS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH GOOGLE FORMS.  
REGISTRATION LINKS ARE IN SCHOOLOGY GROUPS AND ON THE  
SCHOOL WEBSITE.  
PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE THROUGH THE INFINITE CAMPUS STORE

## Baseball

JUNE 10-12 9-11 A.M.  
ENTERING 2ND -8TH GRADES

## Boys Basketball

JUNE 18-20 9 A.M. - NOON  
ENTERING 3RD-8TH GRADES

## Girls Basketball

JUNE 25-27 3-6 P.M.  
ENTERING 3RD-8TH

## Volleyball Camp

ALL SKILLS CAMP  
JULY 22, 24, 25  
GRADES 3RD-9TH  
VOLLEYTOTZ  
3 YRS TO 2ND GRADE

## Football Camp

JULY 22-24  
4-5:30 P.M.  
Entering 1st-6th





## GROWING TREE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM FLYER

### **Growing Tree After School Program is Expanding !**

The program will now include a summer childcare program for children entering kindergarten through sixth grade. We are housed at Whiteford Wesleyan Church, 10285 Sylvania Petersburg Road, Ottawa Lake, MI

**Hours of Operation:** Monday through Friday, 7 am to 6 pm

**Registration:** These will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis  
Returning latchkey or preschool family: \$25      New Family: \$50

To Register or request more information:

734-856-2430 Whiteford Wesleyan Church

419-279-0442 Director

**Fees Per Child:**

½ day (6 hours or less): \$30

Full Day: \$45

Weekly: \$180

The program will provide 2 snacks a day: mid - morning and mid - afternoon.  
Families will be required to provide sack lunches and drinks daily.

**Dates of Importance:**

June 10-14: CLOSED for maintenance

June 24-28: Church will hold Vacation Bible School, 9 am to 11:30 am.

Families are invited to attend. Program will be open. ½ day fees charged to those who attend.

July 4 and 5: Closed for holiday

August 28: Last day of Program

Latchkey begins first day after school dismisses

## Healthy Sleep Habits

# Counseling Corner

Whiteford Elementary School

## Healthy Sleep Habits: A Key to Success

As we approach the final months of the school year, it's important to revisit the topic of sleep -- an essential yet often overlooked component of our health and academic success. As students navigate through learning, growth, testing, and the excitement of summer fun, ensuring they receive adequate sleep becomes more important than ever.

### Why Does This Matter?

Research consistently shows that sufficient sleep is integral for children's physical growth, emotional regulation, and cognitive development. It plays a pivotal role in memory consolidation, meaning the lessons throughout the day are more effectively absorbed and retained during a good night's sleep. Children aged 6-13 require between 9-11 hours of sleep per night, a number that becomes challenging to meet with the increased demands and excitement towards the end of the school year.

Lack of sleep can lead to noticeable changes in behavior and academic performance. You might observe increased irritability, difficulty concentrating, or a decline in academic achievement in children not getting enough rest. These issues can be detrimental at a time when students are preparing for end-of-year tests, projects, or activities, potentially impacting their grades and overall satisfaction with the school year.

### Symptoms of Sleep Deprivation

Sleep deprivation is often overlooked when addressing performance and behavioral issues in children. Given our hectic lifestyles this time of year, children's schedules are so packed that many children often struggle to get enough sleep, and the pressures to succeed affect the quality of their rest. If you're unsure about your child's sleep quality or patterns, you might consider signs of sleep deprivation like difficulty falling asleep or waking up, challenges with impulse control, decreased motivation, defiance/noncompliance, frequent school absences, unexplained hyperactivity, frequent emotional fluctuations, anxiety or increased anxious behaviors, poor concentration, signs of memory impairment, academic decline, irritability, etc. If you suspect that your child may be experiencing sleep deprivation, seeking guidance from their pediatrician can help guide you in re-establishing healthy sleep routines.



### What Can Families Do?

To support your child in maintaining a healthy sleep schedule and routine, you can consider:

- Establishing a consistent bedtime routine** that includes relaxing, winding down activities, such as reading, drawing/coloring, meditation, or quiet play.
- Limiting screen time** at least an hour before bed can also significantly improve sleep quality. The blue light emitted by devices is known to interfere with the body's natural sleep-wake cycle, so intentionally limiting screen time before bed can impact sleep quality in a positive way.
- Keeping bedrooms dark and quiet**, as this helps limit additional distractions and unnecessary blue light exposure before bed or during nighttime awakenings. Keeping bedrooms cool and temperature-controlled helps the body stay relaxed, which also helps regulate sleep-wake cycles.

As parents, guardians, and caregivers, your involvement and encouragement can make a substantial difference in your child's sleep habits and, by extension, their overall well-being and academic performance. Let's work together to prioritize rest, ensuring our children end the school year on a high note and enter the summer months with energy, enthusiasm, and a foundation for continued success. Please let me know how I can support your family in this practice.

For more information on healthy sleep habits, please visit my **Counseling Corner Newsletters and Resources** section within my **Resources** tab in my Schoology group.