

WHITEFORD AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent of Schools



SUPERINTENDENT FAMILY BULLETIN
AUGUST 6, 2023

GREETING

Hey, Bobcat Families! This Tuesday, August 8, Whiteford Agricultural Schools is asking voters to consider two proposals for a non-homestead renewal and increase of millage. **These proposals do NOT impact the taxes on residential properties or most agricultural properties;** only second homes, commercial, industrial, and some agricultural properties are assessed. One proposal will be a renewal of 17.4572, which is our current millage rate. The second proposal will be an increase of 1.0 mill. If passed by voters, this would get us to 18.4572 mills; however, we can only collect on 18 mills. Even though primary households are not affected, state law requires a district-wide election to approve this millage.

The Non-Homestead Millage makes up approximately \$1.1 million of the Whiteford Agricultural Schools' \$10.5 million total budget. The Non-Homestead millage is essential; this money cannot be replaced with any other funding source. Failure to renew the Non-Homestead renewal and increase would change our state aid foundation amount significantly per student. The State will not replace the funding and the Whiteford Agricultural School district will be forced to reduce or eliminate instructional and support programs for our students to offset the reduction of revenue. The Whiteford Agricultural Schools Board of Education will be forced to schedule a second election. You can access the mailing that was sent via snail mail to district residents the week of July 17: [Non-Homestead Millage Vote Mailer 7/13/23](#)

Vote YES on Tuesday, August 8 for both proposals as these proposals do NOT impact taxes on residential properties!
Voting will begin at 7am on August 8th and the polls will remain open until 8pm that evening. For this election, all voters cast their ballots at St. Michael Lutheran Church, located at 5790 W. Temperance Road in Ottawa Lake.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL COMMUNITY KICK-OFF

In coordination with the athletic department and Whiteford Parent Association (WPA), we have planned a Back-To-School Kick-Off on August 15. There will be a fall sports parent meeting from 5-6:15pm in the new gymnasium followed by breakout sessions for each sport. Beginning at 6:30pm, the WPA is sponsoring a connection with families where parents can pick up their back-to-school letter from teachers and see some improvements to the elementary school. Also at 6:30pm, we will be inviting the entire community to join a Bond Grand Opening Celebration highlighting the completed Series I and Series II construction work. We will have bounce houses, food trucks, outdoor games, and a scavenger hunt for kids/families that will allow guests to see our new bond spaces. It should be a great opportunity for our families and community members to gather for a fun evening. A flier will be posted soon to the district website and Facebook page with more information, so mark your calendars and plan on attending this fun community event! We will still have our annual Open House on 8/30 from 5-6:30pm where families and students will visit their classrooms and meet teachers.

AUGUST BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The next Board of Education meeting is August 14, 2023. The meeting will begin at 6pm in the Bobcat Den located in the MS/HS. The Board of Education agenda is typically posted the Friday preceding a meeting and can be found here: [BOE Agenda & Minutes](#).

BOARD PRESIDENT CHRISTINE BISCHOFF RESIGNS

At the July 25 Whiteford Township Board of Trustees meeting, Christine Bischoff was appointed Township Clerk. She is no longer able to complete her term as the President of Whiteford Agricultural Schools Board of Education. More information will be shared via the district website and social media this week as the Whiteford Agricultural Schools Board of Education seeks applicants for the open board position. The board position must be filled within 30 days of the resignation, and it will be filled by board appointment at a future BOE Special Meeting TBD.

BUILDING SCHEDULE START/END CHANGES FOR 2023-2024

During the Bond Project's initial planning stages, a new bus loop was created in hopes of reducing or eliminating traffic congestion at arrival and dismissal. This bus loop will begin at the elementary entrance and extend around the back of the new gymnasium traveling on the east side of the middle school wing to Consear Road. With this new traffic pattern, there is a plan to have the buildings switch/change start and end times. Please make note of the new bell schedules for both buildings. For those students riding a bus, information will be shared with families in August outlining pick-up and drop-off times.

2023-2024 School Year					
	Doors Open	Breakfast	1st Bell	Tardy Bell	Dismissal
Elementary	7:20	7:20-7:45	7:30	7:40	2:55
Middle/High	7:35	7:35-8:00	7:50	8:00	3:00

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL CHANGES FOR 2023-2024

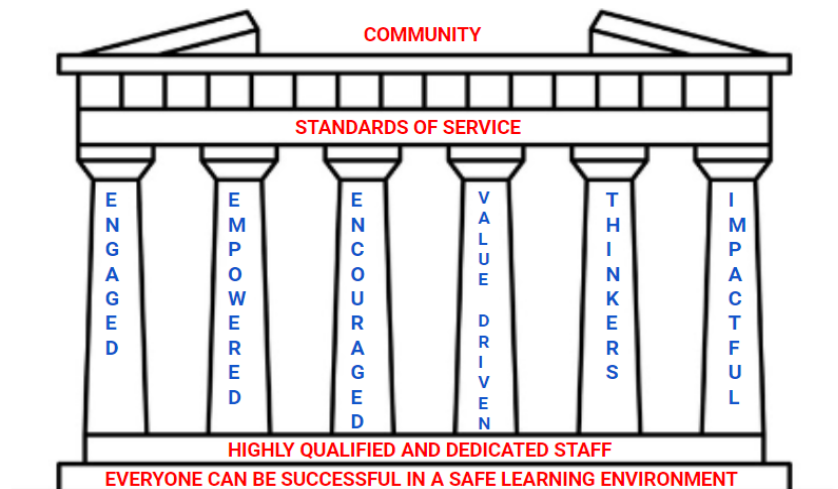
The district parking lots have been paved, resealed, painted, and receiving additional signage to outline new traffic patterns to improve traffic flow. More information and maps will be shared as we draw closer to the new school year, but listed below are some general expectations with arrival and dismissal processes for bus and car riders/drivers. Note: There will be no bus traffic in the front of the middle/high school per the previous routine.

- **Morning Arrival-Bus Riders**-Elementary students will be dropped off first and enter "Door C". The buses will proceed around the new gymnasium and bus garage before parking on the east side of the bus garage/middle school wing. Middle/high school students will then be released to enter "Door F" into the middle school wing or near the new weight room "Door G." Students eating breakfast will proceed to the building's cafeteria.
- **Morning Arrival-Car Riders**-Elementary students will be dropped off per the regular routine and enter "Door C." Secondary students will be dropped off in the front at either the high school entrance, "Door A," or middle school entrance, "Door D." Cars leaving the parking lot after drop off will proceed to the middle exit. Students eating breakfast will proceed to the building's cafeteria, and those not eating will remain in the door foyer areas that are monitored by staff.
- **Afternoon Dismissal-Bus Riders**-Elementary students will be picked up first in the designated bus loop, and the buses will proceed to the back of the middle school wing where they will park and pick up middle/high school students outside the designated bus loop near the middle school wing.
- **Afternoon Dismissal-Car Riders**-Elementary students will be picked up per the regular routine. Secondary students can be picked up in the front of the high school. "Door A," middle school, "Door D," or from the main parking lot, "Door J."

STRATEGIC PLAN PILLARS OF SUCCESS

Whiteford Strategic Plan 2022-2027

- **ENGAGED** in purposeful learning.
- **EMPOWERED** for a meaningful role in our dynamic world.
- **ENCOURAGED** by our community.
- **VALUE DRIVEN** leaders.
- Critical **THINKERS**.
- **IMPACTFUL** in their community.



→ **STANDARDS OF SERVICE** We will treat all stakeholders (students, staff, parents/guardians, community members) with respect, kindness, and professionalism at all times.

→ **COMMUNITY** promotes, cultivates, and celebrates student and district success.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH MENUS

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

SCHOOL CALENDARS

2023-2024 School Calendar

ATHLETICS WEBSITE/CALENDAR

<https://www.whiteford.k12.mi.us/athletics/>

THIS WEEK

August 7 HS Fall Sports Practices Begin
August 8 Non-Homestead Millage Vote

NEXT WEEK

August 14 Board of Education Meeting 6pm Bobcat Den
August 15 Athletic Orientation Night 5-6:30pm High School Gymnasium
August 15 Bond Project Grand Opening/Elementary Connection Night 6:30-8:30pm South Gym Parking Lot

UPCOMING

August 28 Chromebook Distribution (6th-12th Grades) 5-8pm MS/HS Media Center
August 29 Chromebook Distribution (6th-12th Grades) 9-12pm MS/HS Media Center
August 30 K-12 Open House 5-6:30pm
September 4 Labor Day
September 5 1st Day of School (12pm Start)

We are better together - We are Whiteford!



Scott L. Huard, ED.S.
Superintendent

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