

WHITEFORD AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent of Schools



SUPERINTENDENT FAMILY BULLETIN
SEPTEMBER 5, 2022

GREETING

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! I trust that everyone enjoyed their summer, and I hope you had the opportunity to travel in-state, out-of-state, or abroad for some sight-seeing, learning, and relaxation. If not, there are still a few more weekends of summer where you can schedule a day-tripper or overnigher to a nearby destination. It has been a busy summer at Whiteford Agricultural School District with the Bond Projects, on-boarding of new staff members and new learning for current staff members with new roles and responsibilities.

The Bond renovations and new construction is moving along in spite of supply chain issues. We have been very fortunate in that we had just one major delay in receiving our electric gear shift that supplies power to the new classroom additions: band, choir, art, and weight room. The gear shift was to be shipped back in March and arrive in April. Due to material and worker shortages, the gear shift was delayed for several months, but it finally arrived on sight two weeks ago. The new addition was to have opened the 1st day of school, but because of the delay with the gear shift, we are still a few months away from opening these new spaces. We are excited that the renovations to the media center, virtual lab, AG classroom/lab, and STEM classroom/lab are finished and ready for the 1st day of school. Once the new addition is completed, we will be scheduling an Open House to allow the community access.

Through the retirement or resignations of staff along with some new staffing positions, we have been busy on-boarding new staff or supporting current staff with new learning with an adjustment of roles and responsibilities. I have outlined these staff additions or changes later in the bulletin. We are excited about the strength of our team!

Overall, we are excited about the opportunities that are in store for our students and staff for the 2022-2023 school year. We are grateful for the support of our families and community, and we value our partnerships. Remember, we are better together, we are Whiteford! Have a great year, Bobcats!

NEW STAFF

We are excited to welcome the following individuals to our Whiteford Team for the 2022-2023 school year. Within our Strategic Plan 2022-2027, we are to attract and retain highly qualified, motivated staff. In order to attract, we must offer competitive wages and benefits along with a positive district culture. We retain staff through support and job embedded professional development that allows them to grow. Through the extensive hiring process, we consider an individual's longevity and commitment in staying at Whiteford. We believe that this group of individuals provide not only a wealth of educational experience, but also the desire to make Whiteford their educational career destination.

- Erin Cousino (Elementary Building Sub) - Replacing Amanda Diesing
- Rachel Groch (Elementary LRE Aide) - Replacing Leslie Lehberger
- Amanda Diesing (6th Grade SS/Science) - Replacing Les Manley
- Bailey Elekonich (Resource Room) - Replacing Shannon Henry/Erin Manley
- Tori Gossard (6th Grade Mathematics) - Replacing Missy Haley
- Marsha Groll (MS/HS Science) - Replacing Pam Vincient
- Emily Nagel (Kindergarten) - New position
- Jonathan Scheffer (MS/HS Mathematics) - Replacing Anna Antel
- Jeff Thomas (MS/HS Social Studies) - Replacing Jeremy Simmons
- Mindy Welch (STEM) - Replacing Julia Evans
- Brian VanAlstine (MS/HS Mathematics) - New position
- Deputy Brandon Benes (School Resource Officer) - Replacing Deputy Depew

- Anthony Napierala (Maintenance) - Replacing Josh Ondrus
- Marisa Tebbe-Cousino (Director of Finance & Business Services) - Replacing Michelle Strick
- Laura Cruz-Hartland (Accounting Assistant) - Replacing Marisa Tebbe-Cousino
- Jake Rowe (UTEC Technology Technician) - Replacing Mason Spino

INFINITE CAMPUS

This summer, we have worked extremely hard to develop ways to make the beginning of year completion of forms easier and less time consuming for our families. Many of the forms and agreements that were mailed in the past have now been “digitized” and can be accessed through our website or Infinite Campus. **This process will be replacing Registration Day Packets for 6-12th grades and the Emergency Cards for K-12th grades.** Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the information outlined in this [letter](#). We hope that you will find it helpful as we start a new school year. The **ACTION STEPS** for each family are outlined in the letter.

SCHOOLGY

Our K-12 teaching staff use Schoology to communicate with students and families, post assignments and grades, and sometimes include instructional videos. Here is a [Schoology Parent Account](#) video sharing introductory information about Schoology. If your family has yet to access Schoology or downloaded the App for your phone, you can email your child’s teacher for log-in details or contact Corey Mills for support at: mills@whiteford.k12.mi.us

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated operational guidance for K-12 schools on August 11, 2022. Based upon this guidance, Whiteford Agricultural School District has created this [document](#) to help assist families regarding COVID-19. If your child tests positive for COVID-19, please contact your child’s school office to set the process in motion to determine your child’s safe return to school. There are NO mask requirements in the buildings or on buses for healthy students, staff, and guests.

BOND UPDATE

In November of 2019, the Whiteford community supported the passing of a 15.4 million dollar bond project that would include three separate series of bond sales. Series 1 and 2 bonds have been sold with Series 3 bonds being sold in 2024. You can access more details about the Bond Project [here](#). A scope of work and updated progress towards completion is listed below:

- Track & Field Complex - Completed Spring 2021
- MS/HS Septic Field - Completed Summer 2021
- MS/HS Bathroom Renovations - Completed Summer 2021
- Bus Garage - Completed June 2022
- MS/HS Agricultural Classroom/Lab Renovation - Completed August 2022
- MS/HS STEM Classroom/Lab Renovation - Completed August 2022
- MS/HS Media Center/Virtual Lab Renovation - Completed August 2022
- MS/HS Band, Choir, Art Classrooms/Weightroom - Started Summer 2021 with completion set for this Fall
- HS Gymnasium/Lockerrooms - Started April 2022 with a completion set for July 2023
- Bus Loop - Started August 2022 with a completion set for July 2023
- MS/HS Science Lab Renovation - Series 3
- Elementary Entrance Renovation - Series 3
- MS/HS Entrance Renovation - Series 3
- Elementary Bathroom Renovations - Series 3
- Elementary/MS/HS Mechanical and electrical Upgrades - Series 3
- MS/HS Educational & Administrative Space Renovations - Series 3
- MS/HS Parking Lot Expansion - Series 3
- Football Bleachers/Handicap Accessible Walkways - Series 3

FOOD SERVICE

The Nutrition Group will provide the food service program. Meal service begins on Wednesday, September 7th and will include both breakfast and lunch. The school district participates in the USDA National School Lunch and Breakfast

Programs, which means that all meals meet or exceed the guidelines and regulations for the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children. There also will be ala carte foods available during lunch.

We still need your household to complete the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application. The easiest way to complete the application is by submitting your information on LUNCHAPP.COM, which can be accessed from the district's website on the Food Service page [here](#). If unable to complete it online, please complete the paper application that can be obtained from any school office and return.

VOLUNTEER FORM

Whiteford Agricultural School District appreciates your willingness to serve as a volunteer in our district and become a substantial and vital part of our school programs! You can access the form [here](#) or from any school office. Please complete both sides of the form and return it to your student's building office, teacher, or coach. Background checks will be done on an annual basis. The background check process is time consuming; therefore, appropriate lead time must be given to ensure background checks are completed prior to volunteer service at the school or for any function conducted by the school.

GROWING TREE AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE PROGRAM

The Growing Tree After School Program is pleased to be able to offer a childcare program on a self-funded basis for Kindergarten through 5th grade. The after-school program is a ministry of the Whiteford Wesleyan Church. The program is licensed through the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Child Care division. The After School Program will operate during bad weather morning delays, daily after school hours, and early dismissals that are included in the Whiteford Schools yearly calendar until 6pm. Fees are \$6/hour for first child, \$5/hour for second child, and \$4/hour for third and additional children. If you are interested in learning more about the After School Program, please contact Bernice Heidelberg at 419-279-0442 or get a registration packet from the Whiteford Elementary School office.

CONCERNS & QUESTIONS

If a concern or problem arises this school year, it is important that we follow proper lines of communication. Concerns regarding your child and their educational or athletic experience should be expressed directly with the staff member that it most closely involves and should occur at an appropriate time, place, and with a professional tone. This provides a process whereby employees closest to the problem have an opportunity to know about the concern, a chance to work on the problem and are able to effectively work out a solution to the problem that is agreeable to all involved. In all situations, it is important to presume positive intentions and have an attitude in seeking to understand the situation.

ATHLETIC FAN ALERTS

If you are a Whiteford Fan, and you want to receive up-to-date changes and cancellations this spring, please go to the Whiteford Agricultural School District website. Under "Athletic Tab", click on the Athletic Calendar. This will take you to our Whiteford Big Teams page. Go to "Join/Login", then go to Get Alerts to set up your account to get texts and emails in real time! From the Fan Dashboard, select "Favorites", click the sports you want updates. Lastly, select "Alerts", and click all that apply for updates.

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

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

SCHOOL DELAYS / CLOSINGS

School closing or delay announcements will be sent via the Infinite Campus Messenger systems and announced on the following television stations: Channel 11 (CBS) and Channel 13 (ABC). Announcements should occur no later than 7am. Parents and students are asked NOT to call the school or school officials. When school is delayed due to fog/snow/ice or other emergency conditions, it will be delayed for a minimum of two (2) hours.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH MENUS

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR

[2022-2023 School Calendar](#)

THIS WEEK

September 5 Labor Day
September 6 All Staff Professional Development 8-12pm Elementary Cafeteria
September 6 1st Day of School (Students start at 12pm)
September 6 Varsity Cross Country at Mason 4:30pm
September 6 Varsity/JVB Volleyball vs Emmanuel Baptist Christian 5pm
September 7 JVG Volleyball vs Madison 4:30pm
September 7 MS Football at Mason 5pm (Scrimmage)
September 8 Varsity/JVG Volleyball vs Mason 5:30pm
September 9 Senior Sunrise 7am
September 9 Varsity Football vs Detroit Loyola 7pm

NEXT WEEK

September 12-30 NWEA Benchmark Testing Window
September 12 MS Volleyball vs Morenci 4:30pm
September 12 JV Football vs Monroe 6pm
September 12 Board of Education Meeting 6:15pm MS/HS Media Center
September 13 Varsity/MS Cross Country at Mason 5pm
September 13 Varsity/JVG Volleyball at Madison 5:30pm
September 14 Elementary Picture Day
September 14 MS Football vs Madison 4:30pm
September 14 MS Volleyball at Lenawee Christian 5:30pm
September 15 Varsity/JVB Volleyball vs Morenci 5:30pm
September 16 Varsity Football at Madison 7pm
September 17 Varsity Volleyball at Onsted 8am
September 17 Varsity Cross Country at New Boston Huron 8:30am (Huron Invite Willow Metropark)
September 17 MS Cross Country at New Boston Huron 12pm (Huron Invite Willow Metropark)
September 17 Maddie Lee Clovers Foundation Benefit 4pm (8061 Sylvania-Petersburg Rd)
September 17 JVG Volleyball at Hudson

UPCOMING

September 19-24 Homecoming Week
September 20 Whiteford Parent Association (WPA) Meeting 6pm Elementary Cafeteria
September 24 Homecoming Dance 7-9:30pm High School Gymnasium
September 27 Tri-County Conference Athlete Leadership Conference
October 5 Fall Student Count Day
October 10-14 5th Grade Michindoh Camp
October 10 Board of Education Meeting 6:15pm MS/HS Media Center
October 13 MS/HS Picture Day
October 18 Whiteford Parent Association (WPA) Meeting 6pm Elementary Cafeteria
October 25 HS Band/Choir Concert 7pm High School Gymnasium
October 31 Half-Day Early Release MS/HS 11am, Elementary 11:10am
October 31 Teacher Professional Development 12-3pm
November 4 End of 1st Marking Period

We are better together - We are Whiteford!



Scott L. Huard, ED.S.

Superintendent

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