

# Whitehall District Schools



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Dear Whitehall Middle School Families,

It is with great excitement that I write this letter to you as the newly hired principal at Whitehall Middle School. I am honored to lead a school with amazing students, a dedicated staff, and a supportive school community. WMS will continue to work diligently to provide a quality education where all students succeed.

This will be my seventh year working for Whitehall District Schools. Over the past six years, I have worked as a classroom teacher, a coach, and most recently, the assistant principal of Whitehall Middle School. My family and I moved to Whitehall three years ago. Whitehall has quickly become our home and we're extremely fortunate to raise our girls within the Whitehall community. All three of our girls attend Whitehall District Schools and enjoy participating in school and community events. We love the outdoors and spend a lot of our time fishing and hiking within the White Lake area.

The WMS staff is looking forward to the start of the 2023-2024 school year. I hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer to this point. As we continue to prepare for the start of another great school year, please read through the information below.

## **Demographic Update via PowerSchool:**

- Sign in to the Parent Portal <http://ps-wh.muskegonisd.org/public>
  - If you need help with your sign in, call the office at 231-893-1030 or email [sarahsholty@whitehallschools.net](mailto:sarahsholty@whitehallschools.net) or [nicholehershey@whitehallschools.net](mailto:nicholehershey@whitehallschools.net)
  - If you have forgotten your password, please use the reset password link
- Scroll down the left side to "Demographic Update"
- You must provide at least one "Parent/Guardian Contact" and one "Emergency Contact."
- Open each document and click "I Accept" (Student Handbook/Tech Agreement...)
- Registration is complete after you sign electronically and hit "submit." You will now have access to your students schedule and transportation information.

## **Daily Schedule:**

Below you will find the times for Monday - Thursday and also Early Release Friday.

Monday-Thursday: 7:50 am - 2:50 pm

Early Release Friday: 7:50 am - 1:30 pm

Doors will open each day at 7:40 am

**Student Schedules:**

Schedules are available on PowerSchool and you will be able to see them once you have finished the registration process. Please know that we are still finalizing schedules and there could be a few last minute changes. If that occurs with your student, you will be notified.

**First Day of School - August 22nd:**

Back to school day for all Middle School students will be from 7:50 am - 11:05 am on Tuesday, August 22nd. All students will run a modified schedule where they will meet their teachers and move through each of their classes. Bus routes will run on this day for secondary students only. Bus times will be available on PowerSchool soon.

**Back to School Open House:**

The middle school will be open from 5:00pm - 7:00pm on the night of August 22nd. This is an opportunity for parents to come back with their students to meet teachers, tour the building, and have any questions answered. Teachers will be available during this time. You are not required to attend if your student attended school in the AM.

**6th Grade WEB Orientation:**

All incoming 6th grade students are invited to participate in our WEB orientation on Monday, August 21st from 7:45am - 11:30am. WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) is a program led by 8th grade students to assist with the transition for 6th graders into the middle school setting. It is an opportunity for students to learn more about middle school while also developing relationships with other students. More information about this orientation day will come next week to all 6th grade families.

**School Supplies:**

- Backpack
- Water bottle
- Headphones or earbuds (optional)
- Folders/Notebooks - students will have 5 classes each day
- Writing Utensils (pencils, pens, crayons, etc.)

**Breakfast and Lunch:**

All students are able to receive FREE breakfast and lunch. You are always welcome to send lunch from home for your child.

**Lockers:**

All students will have their own locker with a combination lock on it. Students will get their locker assignments on the first day of school, August 22nd. Staff will continuously help students open their lockers until they learn to use a combination lock. If you have a combination lock at home, it is a good idea to have your student practice now, so that they can get the hang of it.

**Bus Transportation:**

Bus route information will be available on PowerSchool when you complete your update. Please be sure to check the time and pickup location as they have changed since last year. If you have any questions, please contact the transportation department at 893-1060.

**Student Drop off/Pick up:**

If you plan to drop off/pick up your student, please be sure to drop all students off in the parent drop off location on the north side of the building (near the main office). Please do not park in the drop off lane as this disrupts traffic flow. You will find a photo below showing the parent drop off location.

**School Picture Form**

School pictures will be taken on Friday, September 22nd, during the school day. The Middle School uses Radium Photo for our school pictures, sports pictures, and yearbooks. **Online forms** are available if you wish to purchase picture packages using a credit card. You may also pick up a paper form during the Open House on August 22<sup>nd</sup> if you wish to pay by cash or check (made out to Radium Photo). Have your child bring the form to school on picture day. Note that yearbooks will *not* be delivered with your picture package. Delivery for yearbooks will be in May, 2024. There will be order forms in the spring for yearbooks for those that do not wish to purchase a yearbook at this time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office at 231-893-1030 or email me at [craigthompson@whitehallschools.net](mailto:craigthompson@whitehallschools.net). We are truly looking forward to another great year at WMS.

Sincerely,

Craig Thompson, Principal  
Whitehall Middle School

