

Whitehall District Schools



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August 9, 2024

Dear Whitehall Middle School Families,

Welcome to the start of the 2024-2025 school year! We are excited to embark on this journey with you and your child/children as we begin another chapter of growth, learning, and discovery.

As we prepare for the year, we want to extend our warmest greetings to returning families and those joining our Whitehall community for the first time. Middle school is a pivotal time in a student's educational journey, filled with opportunities for academic achievement, personal development, and building lasting friendships.

At WMS, we are committed to providing a nurturing and inclusive environment where every student can thrive. Our dedicated staff is here to support your children's academic pursuits and personal growth, encouraging them to explore their interests, develop critical thinking skills, and embrace challenges with confidence.

Our WMS staff is looking forward to the start of the 2024-2025 school year, and we hope that you have had an enjoyable summer so far. Please read the information below as we prepare for another great school year.

Have a great day!

Craig Thompson
Whitehall Middle School Principal

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 or 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 student's schedule and transportation information.

Daily Schedule:

Below are the times for Monday - Thursday and Early Release Friday.

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

Early Release Friday: 7:50 am - 1:25 pm
Doors will open each day at 7:35 am

Student Schedules:

Schedules are available on PowerSchool, and you can 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. Please check your student's schedule on the 19th to ensure no changes were made.

First Day of School - August 20th:

Back-to-school day for all Middle School students will be from 7:50 a.m. to 11:05 a.m. on Tuesday, August 20th. All students will run a modified schedule, meeting their teachers and moving through each of their classes. Bus routes will run on this day. Bus times will be available on PowerSchool.

Back to School Open House - August 20th

The middle school will be open from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the night of August 20th. 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 morning. We look forward to seeing you.

6th Grade Parent/Student Meeting - August 14th

All incoming 6th-grade parents and students are invited to attend an informational meeting on August 14, 2024, starting at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will provide parents/students with information about Whitehall Middle School and will last 30-45 minutes. The building will be open until 7:30 for those interested in walking around the middle school.

6th Grade WEB Orientation - August 19th

All incoming 6th-grade students are invited to participate in our WEB orientation on Monday, August 19th, from 7:45 am to 11:30 am. WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) is a program led by 8th-grade students to assist with the transition of 6th-graders into the middle school setting. It is an opportunity for students to learn more about middle school while developing relationships with other students. All 6th-grade students will receive a phone call from an 8th-grade WEB leader on Friday, August 16th, around 12:00 pm, inviting them to attend 6th-grade WEB orientation.

Back to School Backpack Giveaway

Where: Lebanon Lutheran Church *1101 S. Mears Ave.

When: August 14, 2024 - 5:00 - 7:00 PM

What: 150 backpacks and water bottles will be given away. Students must be present with their parent/guardian to receive a backpack. Additional parking is available at Shoreline Elementary.

School Supplies:

- Backpack
- Water bottle
- Headphones or earbuds (optional)

- Folders - students will have six classes each day. Folders help with student organization.
- Writing Utensils

Breakfast and Lunch:

All students can receive FREE breakfast and lunch. You are always welcome to send lunch from home for your child. Due to student food allergies, all school-provided food will be served in the cafeteria.

Lockers:

All students will have their own locker with a combination lock. Once guardians complete the Power School Demographic update, students and parents can access their locker assignments through PowerSchool. Staff will continuously help students open their lockers until they learn to use a combination lock. If you have a combination lock at home, having your students practice now is a good idea to get the hang of it.

Bus Transportation:

Parents who have already filled out the Google Forms survey sent out by the transportation department this summer have been assigned a bus stop based on their survey responses. If you have not completed the survey, please contact the bus garage at (231) 893-1060 to see if bussing can still be arranged for this school year. The bus route information will be visible under the student profile transportation section after 8/15 and after your student is registered for the 2024-2025 school year by completing the demographic update in PowerSchool.

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. Below is a photo displaying a map of the parent drop-off location.

School Picture Form

School pictures will be taken during the school day on Thursday, September 12th. The middle school uses Geskus Photo for our school pictures, sports pictures, and yearbooks. [Online forms](#) are available if you wish to purchase picture packages using a credit card.

Parents/Guardians will be notified when picture forms are given to students. Parents/Guardians can expect paper forms to be delivered to students on August 29th. 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 2025. There will be order forms for yearbooks in the spring for those who do not wish to purchase a yearbook at this time.

If you have any questions, please call the office at 231-893-1030 or email Craig Thompson at craigthompson@whitehallschools.net. We are genuinely looking forward to another great year at WMS. Go VIKES!

Sincerely,

Craig Thompson, Principal
Whitehall Middle School

