



Whitehall Home School Partnership
Student and Family Handbook
2020-2021

Whitehall District Schools
541 E. Slocum St.
Whitehall, MI 49461
(231) 893-0515

Welcome to the Whitehall Home School Partnership

On behalf of the faculty and staff, we are happy to welcome you to our Partnership. Our purpose is to partner with you by offering unique learning opportunities for your children.

This handbook is designed to inform you of our procedures for the current school year. We encourage you to read through the handbook carefully and refer to it as needed through the year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kathleen English, Home School Liaison at (231) 893-1000 x 2010 (direct line), (231) 893-0515 (general line) or email: kathleenenglish@wlace.org.

Our goal is to ensure your student feels welcome and has fun while learning!

Hoping your 2020-2021 school year is a fantastic one!

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Michigan Home School Law

This is not intended to be legal advice and is distributed for information purposes only. For more detailed information on home schooling in Michigan, consult the Michigan Department of Education's webpage at:

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6530_6569_35175---,00.html

Right to Home School

Michigan parents have the right to home school their children. The law requires a parent or legal guardian of a child from the age of six to sixteen to send his or her child to school during the entire school year, except under certain limited circumstances (MCL 380.1561). The law was amended in 2010 to increase the compulsory school attendance age from 16 to 18 for a child who turns 11 after December 1, 2009, or who entered grade six after 2009. The exceptions include, but are not limited to, sending a child to a state-approved nonpublic school or educating a child at home in an organized educational program.

Who May Home School

Home school education is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. The parent assigns homework, gives tests and grades these tests. The issuance of report cards, transcripts and diplomas are the responsibility of the home school family (based on internal standards). If home schooling continues through grade 12, the parent issues a high school diploma to the graduate.

Course of Study

Instruction must include mathematics, reading, English, science, and social studies in all grades; and the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Michigan and the history and present form of civil government of the United States, the State of Michigan and the political subdivisions and municipalities of the State of Michigan in grades 10, 11 and 12.

Home schooled students may enroll in nonessential elective classes at the resident public-school subject to the district's enrollment policy.

Student Records

Parents are encouraged to maintain student records of progress throughout the year. These records will assist school personnel with placement should the student enroll in a

public or nonpublic school. The granting of credits and placement of students is solely determined by the receiving school. If a student attends a home school and returns to a public school, the public school generally reevaluates the students for grade placement and the transfer of credit.

Textbooks

Home school families are responsible for purchasing the textbooks and instructional materials of their choice.

Athletics

The supervision and control of interscholastic athletics are the responsibility of each local board of education. Most local boards have adopted policies as proposed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) at (517) 332-5046 or MHSAA website: www.mhsaa.com

Additional Information

MDE's website provides additional information on home schooling that includes legislation, the registration form, and instructions. You may access this information at the Michigan home school website: www.michigan.gov/homeschool.

Partnership Procedures and Requirements

Students who live in the following counties are eligible to participate in the Whitehall Home School Partnership: Kent, Muskegon, Oceana, Ottawa and Newaygo.

Age Requirements

- Minimum age: Students must be 5 by September 1, 2019.
- Maximum age: Students must not exceed 19 years of age by September 1, 2020.

Documentation Requirements

- Original birth certificate
- Proof of residency (i.e. tax bill, utility bill, etc.)

Immunization or Immunization Waiver Requirements

- We do not require immunization records. However, if you waive immunizations on the basis of a nonmedical waiver (medical waivers can be taken care of by your physician) the State of Michigan has new procedures. As of January 1, 2015, the new rule states that anyone who is waiving immunizations must visit their local county health department before claiming the waiver. The nonmedical waiver must be certified by the State of Michigan, Michigan Department of Community Health.
- Immunization waivers are needed for any new student or who is entering into 7th grade. Michigan State law requires to have the immunization waiver on anyone who is waving immunization **before** they start school.

Absences

Students are expected to attend all of their classes on a weekly basis. Not attending on a weekly basis may result in the Partnership not receiving funding from the State. This program lives from the funding we receive from the State for each class your student attends. To maintain the integrity of the program, we must demonstrate an overall excellent rate of completion of classes taken by our students. Students are expected to be in each class at least 80% of the time. You may be asked to reimburse the District for any expenses incurred as a result of not meeting the minimum requirements. If your student is sick and cannot make class, please notify Kathleen English, Home School Liaison so she can document that this is an excused absence. Absences must be documented as either excused or unexcused. Excused absences are those which have been communicated by a parent or guardian; all other absences are considered unexcused.

Grades

Students are graded on a pass/fail basis. Passing requires a minimum of 80% attendance in your seated class and a 4 or 3 competency assigned by the teacher.

Competency Levels:

- 4-exceeding objective expectations
- 3-meeting objective expectations
- 2-below objective expectations
- 1-not meeting objective expectations

Count Day Information

Count Day is when the State of Michigan pays the school district based on how many students are present on the first Wednesday in October and the second Wednesday in February. It is required that a student be enrolled and present in their classes prior to Count Day, attend Count Day and then attend the week after Count Day in order for us to get funding. If your student is sick on Count Day, and has an excused absence we have make-up days.

Communication

Communication is extremely important to this program. The majority of the communication in this program is through emails and posts on Facebook. Everything that is emailed is also posted on the Whitehall Homeschool Partnership Facebook page as a courtesy. Please be sure to check your email regularly and your SPAM folder.

If you are interested in joining our Facebook page (this is a closed page so you will have to ask for permission to join) you can find us by going to Whitehall Homeschool Partnership Program. If you choose to not be a part of the Facebook page, you will still get updated through emails.

Occasionally teachers may send home notes, please check with your student for any notes that may have gone home.

Emergency or School Closings

In the event that school is cancelled because of inclement weather, or other conditions, local radio and television stations will broadcast this information. Please check your local TV stations: WOOD TV8, FOX 17 or WZZM 13. If Whitehall District Schools are closed then the Partnership is closed.

Age Requirements

- Minimum Age: Your student must be 5 years old by September 1st.
- Maximum Age: Your student must not exceed 19 years old as of September 1st to continue in this program.

Documentation Requirements

- An original birth certificate for each student.
- Proof of residency (utility or tax bill)

Course Definitions

Seat Courses: A seated course is a class that is offered at the White Lake Community Center and meets on a weekly basis.

Virtual Courses: A virtual course is one where the student takes the course online at any time, any place and at any pace.

Class Cancellation Policy

If a class is under enrolled, the class will be cancelled and parents will be notified (the minimum number for a class is 5 students). All efforts will be made to help the student transition to another class.

Transportation

Transportation is available to students who are residents of Whitehall District Schools. Transportation between Whitehall District Schools buildings will be provided if necessary.

Dress Code

Clothing should be appropriate and decent. Student clothing should not pose a threat to public or personal safety and not be disruptive to classroom or pupil behavior.

Class Descriptions for Whitehall Home School Classes

2020-2021

ART

ART 101 – Laugh and Learn Intro to Art for Elementary Students

Laugh and Learn Intro to Art is designed for our younger learners. This class will complement content taught in other classes in the Partnership, but at an age appropriate level. Students will use games, art, movement and music to explore graphic arts and make new friends.

Grades K-2

ART 102 – Art in the Style of...

Using famous artist styles for inspiration, students create their own interpretation of “the Masters.”

Grades 3rd-8th

ART 103 – Nature Reflections

Learn more about the world around you and appreciate your own backyard. Students will learn about animals, culture, nature and arts in different places around the world using various artistic mediums; including visual art, PE and technology.

Grades 6th-12th

ART 104 – Mixed Media

An introductory course in developing media in a variety of mediums: podcasts, webpages, vlogs & blogs, video editing, cinematography, photography, graphic design and broadcasting. There will be 8 projects (1 each month) featuring a different medium (listed above) to challenge students' creativity and expand their technology skills. Come with an open and creative mind to learn through mixing creativity, technology and communications.

Grades 6th-12th

ART 105 – Life Style Art

This class will combine life skills lessons, health units, food preparation and technology.

A class designed to increase student knowledge and skills necessary for everyday living. The course emphasizes decision making and problem solving, communication, healthy lifestyles, nutrition and consumerism.

Grades 6th-12th

ART 106 – Creative Expressions

Explore art and communication in new and creative ways! Students will learn to keep an art journal through a variety of mediums to express themselves. It will be a journey of creativity, intrapersonal and interpersonal communication and reflection!

Prerequisite: Students must be able to independently cut, paste, hammer a nail, work hands with materials using fine motor skills and be able to connect and communicate feelings and emotions associated with assigned projects.

Grades 6th-12th

ART 107 – Philanthropy-phi-lan-thro-py: fə'lanTHrəpē)

Students will explore the leadership, democratic process (majority vote) and advocate for the voice for the 'majority' in order to plan events both social and for charity and nonprofits. We will learn to survey the student body, and put student requests into action! This is going to be great learning experience through real life applications. Students will utilize their creativity as well as social skills! Students will have a personal goal to achieve as well as work on a team to accomplish a school, or local community goal.

Grades 6th-12th

ART 108 – Sewing Basics

This class is designed for those interested in learning or reviewing basic sewing skills like straight lines, curves, zippers, applique, taking measurements, reading patterns and completing simple projects.

Grades 3rd-8th

ART 109 – Advanced Sewing Fashions Upcycled

Students will make items that they can wear and recycle old clothes into new items.

Prerequisite: Students must have completed ART 108 prior to being allowed in this course or be able to demonstrate and pass a basic sewing skills test.

Grades 3rd-8th

ART 110 – Creative Art Solutions

Creative Solutions is an art class where students will brainstorm on how to use everyday items in unique and interesting ways to solve problems; all the while making creative art creations.

Grades 3rd-8th

ART 111 – Digital Life Skills

Come surf the net, send an email with an attachment, make a digital presentation, create a database & much more! This class will introduce students to the world of technology we live, learn & communicate in everyday! This class will be taught from the Google Suite of apps (docs, sheets, slides, sites, jamboard, cardboard, maps) which are free and accessible to students at school and at home!

Prerequisite: none

Grades 6th-12th

ART 112 – Art FUNDamentals

This is the fundamentals of art class: color, color wheel, color mixing, art techniques... We will explore the basics and progress through the year using different mediums (pencil, chalk, oil pastels, paint, clay, beads, scissors) doing different projects: drawing, painting, collages, mold/modeling/sculpting. Focus will be on developing basic art techniques and being responsible for & with supplies.

Grades 6th-12th

ART 113 – Architectural Art

This class will focus on painting, drawing and building a variety of structures and buildings; both well known and your own design.

Grades 3rd-8th

ART 114-Animal Art

Use mammals, amphibians, insects, birds and fish as inspiration to create awesome animal art.

Grades 3rd-8th

ART 115 – Culture and Culinary Art

Learn the basics of different forms of art, dance and culinary styles from around the world.

Grades 3rd-8th

ART 116 – Mission Possible

This class is for the student who wants to try a little bit of everything. Covering all aspects of art, there won't be time to be bored as each week we will explore something new. Come prepared to have fun as your student may discover a new interest or hobby.

Grades 3rd-8th

ART 117 – Laugh and Learn Intro to Creative Solutions

Laugh and Learn Intro to Creative Solutions is designed for our younger learners. This class is an art class where students will brainstorm on how to use everyday items in unique and interesting ways to solve problems; all the while making creative art creations.

Grades K-2nd

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

FOREIGN LANGUAGE 101 - American Sign Language (ASL)

This class will accommodate beginners as well as advanced “signers.” Students will learn the manual alphabet, numbers 1-100+, fingerspelling, receptive skills, expressive signing skills, conversational skills, and deaf culture. Each year is unique in the lesson approach and is meant to build a multi-year language program for your student! There will be basics for beginners, and review and challenges for advanced students!

Prerequisite: English alphabet memorized, ability to count in English 1-30, ability to login to student Gmail account independently.

Grades 6th-12th

MUSIC

MUSIC 101 – Laugh and Learn Intro to Music

Intro to Music is designed for our younger learners. This class will complement content taught in other classes in the Partnership, but at an age appropriate level. Students will learn about vocal music, instruments and music concepts in a fun and colorful way.

Grades K-2

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PE 101 – Strategy

This class will include Lego building, camp games, creative play and team challenges as well as computer and board games.

Grades 6th-12th

PE 102 – Educational Kinesiology

Bal-A-Vis-X is a series of **Balance/Auditory/Vision eXercises**, of varied complexity, all of which are deeply rooted in rhythm.

Bal-A-Vis-X is a series of some 300 exercises, most of which are done with sand-filled bags and/or racquetballs. These exercises are steadily rhythmic, with a pronounced auditory foundation. Bal-A-Vis-X enables the whole mind-body system to experience the symmetrical flow of a pendulum. This benefits students with improved hand-eye coordination, balance, concentration & more!

Grades 6th-12th

PE 103 – Laugh and Learn Intro to Elementary Physical Education/Health

Children will have fun learning about nutrition, friendship development, safety, first-aid and healthy behaviors. Class will include physical movement through warm ups and stretching.

Grades K-2nd

PE 104 – Endurance Building

Set goals, build endurance and get into shape. This course will not include sports or gym games as we do not have access to the gymnasium. This class will meet in a classroom or outdoors depending on weather. Students will come to exercise and rotate

through muscle building activities such as, sit-ups, push-ups, jumping rope, steppers, planking and running.

Grades 6th- 12th

VIRTUAL CLASSES

PBS Learning Media

PBS Learning Media offers thousands of powerful learning activities to promote design thinking, collaboration and experimentation. Within PBS Learning Media students can choose from art, PE/health or music.

Grades: K-12

DiscoveryK12

This online curriculum which offers Visual/Performing Arts, Physical Education, and Healthy Living. While DiscoveryK12 offers more than 10 subjects per grade you may only choose the electives.

Grades: K-12

Incredible Art

IAD began as a showcase for elementary art students in Indiana and now includes a diverse range of subjects and topics of interest to art educators, general area teachers, students, parents, artists, and homeschoolers the world over. On this site you can find free art lessons, news, art resources, art careers, and art schools.

Grades: K-12

Go Noodle

Students will get active using interactive videos that engage the mind and body. This free site does require you to create a login to access materials. This virtual counts as a PE/health virtual.

Grades: K-6th

Daria Music

Meet a wonderful children's performer who has traveled the globe to share music that inspires, empowers and is just plain fun! On this website you can find lots of great ways

to have fun with music, build your own music instruments, discover silly songs or design a multi-cultural project for your school or community group.

Grades K-6th

SFSKids (San Francisco Symphony)

The San Francisco Symphony welcomes you to SFSKids.org! We love music and are committed to music education. This website, in conjunction with our live performances, provides a great way for people of all ages to hear, learn, have fun and play games with music.

Grades K-6th

Music Theory

Explore Music Theory's free online content of music basics. This virtual covers the basics, rhythm and meter, scales and key signatures, intervals, chords, diatonic chords and more.

Grades K-12th

Peter's Online Typing Course

By the time you finish this course, you will be able to confidently type all the letters, numbers and all the common symbols, with proper ten-finger touch typing technique.

Grades 6th-12th

Typing.com

Typing.com is the world's most trusted free typing tutor! It's a perfect way to learn how to confidently type all of the letters, numbers and symbols. This program features fun and engaging exercises, interactive typing games and positive reinforcement.

Grades 6th-12th

Khan Academy

Khan Academy offers practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard that empower learners to study at their own pace in and outside of the classroom. Students may only take computer programming, art, health or music.

Grades 6th-12th

Codecademy

Codecademy teaches people how to code. Their framework consists of practices and concepts that serve as a platform to create computer languages. Whether you're writing your first line of code or transforming to your next step, Codecademy will give you the technical skills you need to skill up and stand out!

Grades 6th-12th

CODE.org

Code.org is a nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to computer science in schools and increasing participation by women and underrepresented minorities. Our vision is that every student in every school has the opportunity to learn computer science, just like biology, chemistry or algebra. Code.org provides the leading curriculum for K-12 computer science in the largest school districts in the United States and Code.org also organizes the annual [Hour of Code](#) campaign which has engaged 10% of all students in the world. Code.org is supported by generous donors including Amazon, Facebook, Google, the Infosys Foundation, Microsoft, and [many more](#).

Grades 6th-12th

Odysseyware Elective Descriptions

The following virtual classes are for Grades 6th-12th

ART HISTORY

Art History is designed to enable students to develop knowledge of the history and theory of art and the relationship between artist, artwork, and society. Students will research and critique periods, styles, and works of art from early civilizations through modern and contemporary art.

Throughout the course, students may be asked to answer questions or to reflect on what they've read in their notes. The notes are not graded. Rather, they are a way for students to extend their thinking about the lesson content. Students may keep handwritten or typed notes.

FRENCH I

French 1, students begin to develop competence in four basic skill areas: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. While developing communicative competence in French, students gain and expand their knowledge of francophone countries and cultures. Emphasis is placed on learning the present tense, the near future and the past tense in French I through thematically designed units. Topics include home, school, family, holidays, and daily and leisure activities.

FRENCH II

French II is a foreign language course that builds on and reviews skills and concepts taught in French I through further exposure to communication, cultures, connections,

comparisons, and communities. Course materials are designed to support students as they work to gain a basic proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, writing, and cultural competency. This course gives students practice using the mechanics of the French language, acquaints them with the cultural differences of francophone countries, and helps them gain a keen awareness of their own culture.

HEALTH QUEST

Health Quest is a health science elective course which introduces students to the concepts of what good health is, why good health is important, and what students should do in order to achieve good health.

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate an awareness of health as it applies to their own bodies, minds, and emotions.
- Demonstrate an awareness of health as it applies to their living environments.
- Identify the components of a healthy lifestyle and set reasonable goals to achieve a lifestyle of wellness.

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL HEALTH

Middle/High School Health is a health science elective course that introduces students to what good health is, why good health is important, and what students should do in order to achieve good health.

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate an awareness of health as it applies to their own bodies, minds, and emotions.
- Demonstrate an awareness of health as it applies to their living environments.
- Identify the components of a healthy lifestyle and set reasonable goals to achieve a lifestyle of wellness.
- Understand that incorporating sound health practices creates a lifestyle of moderation and wellness.
- Understand the responsibility of properly caring for their bodies.
- Describe health as it applies to broader society, the world, and their own responsibility to stimulate good health around them.

MUSIC APPRECIATION

The goal of this course is to provide instruction in basic musical elements, trace the development and growth of classical music, and give students a strong foundation for a greater appreciation of music. Students will examine music in the world around them and discover how they experience music. They'll be introduced to the basic elements and sounds of music and instruments. Students will learn the names and backgrounds of several famous musical composers. Students will also learn how and where classical music began, how it developed over the centuries, and the ways in which music and culture affect each other. Lastly, students will examine the ways modern music has been influenced by classical music. This course also provides students with lessons in

engaged listening. These special lessons allow students to and respond to music. A template for how to listen and respond is provided.

MUSIC THEORY

Music Theory requires no prior instrumental, vocal, or music theory study. Using the piano keyboard as a visual basis for comprehension, the course materials explore the nature of music, integrating these concepts:

Throughout the series of assignments, ear training exercises are interspersed with the bones of composition technique, building in students the ability not only to hear and appreciate music, but step-by-step, to create it in written form as well. This highly interactive course culminates in the students producing original compositions, which while based on standard notation, demonstrate facets of personal expression. As the students' ability to perform increases in the future, they will better understand music and therefore better demonstrate its intrinsic communication of emotion and ideas.

PERSONAL AND FAMILY LIVING

This elective takes students on an interactive exploration of the challenges they may face as they transition into adulthood, including constructive conflict resolution, nutrition and health, building healthy families, financial responsibility, and long-term employment.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is an elective that focuses on performance of individual and team sports, with explanations of proper technique, rules of the game, and preparation. Team sports introduced include soccer, basketball, football, baseball, and volleyball. An introduction to fitness, strength, endurance, and nutrition is also included. Students will have the opportunity to perform each sport on their own time, while keeping a log of activity. The goal is incorporation of activity into their daily lives and the gain of lifelong healthy fitness habits.

PHYSICAL FITNESS

Physical Fitness is an elective designed to focus on the health benefits of regular physical activity and of a long term exercise program. As students work through the course, they will learn about the many aspects of physical fitness, including basic nutrition, the importance of flexibility, cardiovascular health, muscle and strength training, and realistic goal setting. Along the way, students will be required to maintain and submit an activity log in order to measure progress in course exercises, as well as in personal fitness goals.

Psychology

Psychology is an introductory elective. Throughout the course students will examine influences on human actions and beliefs, factors influencing behavior and perception, and basic psychological theories. Students will develop and apply their understanding of psychology through lessons and projects that require interaction and observation of others.

SPANISH I

Spanish I is an entry level foreign language course that explores the Spanish language through communication, culture, connections, comparisons, and communities.

Course materials are designed to support students as they work to gain a basic proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing Spanish, and in cultural competency.

SPANISH II

Spanish II is a foreign language course that builds upon skills and concepts taught in Spanish I, emphasizing communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities.

Course materials are designed to support students as they work to gain a basic proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing Spanish, and in cultural competency.