

Viking Press

NEW YEAR, NEW SCHEDULING

By: Sam Sawyer

Each day the school year comes closer to an end. While most students anticipate the upcoming summer, they also have some big changes to look forward to in the impending school year. School officials recently decided to change the high school's schedule next fall. With these changes, core classes will be taken all year instead of over the course of two trimesters. All electives will still be 12 weeks long. This schedule will allow more time for things such as labs, projects, and to spread general information in core classes, according to high school principal Dale McKenzie. With the new schedule, more classes will be created. Some of the classes the school hopes to offer in future years are mass media, dance classes, and new science classes such as forensics. The school hopes to add classes that appeal to students and encourages them to enjoy their classes, said McKenzie.

The school is also looking to switch some of the core classes around. One example is that next year World history will be taught to freshmen and sophomores. World history will become a freshmen required course. U.S. History will become a sophomore required course for next year's freshmen class. The current sophomores will continue to U.S history, while the freshmen will double up on both history classes. The purpose for this is to have students take all of their core classes first, so that if a student were to fail a class they would have more time to retake it. This also gives more elective opportunities for students in their junior and senior years.

While some students are excited for these upcoming changes, others fear they will not be able to take all the electives they have previously completed in the past. Many students have expressed how they are involved in more than one three-trimester class such as both band and choir, and that they will have to drop a class in order to meet the credit criteria. However, this is not the case, according to McKenzie. The new scheduling system is designed to allow students to take many electives while fulfilling credit requirements. The school is working to prorate the amount of credits needed to graduate for the current 9th, 10th and 11th graders. Another thing that has many students concerned is the lunch schedule. The high school will still continue to split the student body into two lunch periods.

It will take some time to get used to the schedule's modifications. While some of the staff are open to the changes that will take place, others do not see what is wrong with the current schedule, according to McKenzie. Many teachers have fun projects and activities they would like to do but cannot because trimesters only give them enough time to get through the mandatory information they must teach. This new schedule will allow more time for these activities. Students also have different opinions on the changes. Sophomore Jessica Friend said, "Trimesters allow you to start fresh." She also mentioned that being in a class with the same people and teachers all year could get tedious over time. On the other hand, another student, Olivia Frazier said, "...it will give us more time to understand harder classes like chemistry and physics."

One thing that has many students excited about the new scheduling is the possibility of a zero hour. Zero hour would give students the opportunity to begin

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For information on the games and times, please see the winter sports schedule on the high school website.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 *	18
19	20 *	21 *	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 *	29 *			

FEBRUARY

- 2/17- 20- NO SCHOOL, Mid- Winter break
- 2/21- School resumes
- 2/28- First hour exams
- 2/29- Half day a.m. only (2nd and 3rd hour exams)

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<https://www.yearbookordercenter.com/>

MARCH

- 3/1- Half day a.m. only (4th and 5th hour exams)
- 3/2- NO SCHOOL
prof. development day
- 3/5- New trimester begins
- 3/6- Sophomores and Juniors take ACT/MME (Seniors and Freshmen do not attend)
- 3/14- Showcase at 7 p.m.
- 3/16- Talent Show at 7 p.m.
- 3/17- National History Day Contest
- 3/26- National Honor Society Induction
- 3/27 and 28- PT Conferences 5-8 p.m.
- 3/29- Full day
- 3/30- NO SCHOOL

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 *	2 *	3
4	5 *	6 *	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 *	15	16 *	17 *
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 *	27 *	28 *	29 *	30 *	31

Birthdays

Feb. 25- Emily Baker Howard Arnold III Uzell Boyles Ross Morningstar	Mar. 3- Mackenzie Breckler Joyce Grin Nate Burns Austin Bush	Mar. 13- Devon Schmidt Alex Colby Kateri Stachowicz Sarah Brumm Hannah Fleet	Daniel Hite Ryan Quinn Quinn Santa Ana
Feb. 26- Robert Johnson Hanna Thorne Dontae Burks	Mar. 4- Jake Erdman	Mar. 14- Anthony Bower Lindsey Fuller	Mar. 22- James Cousins
Feb. 27- Joe Sika Steven Sika Dean Hewitt	Mar. 5- Mallory Gallihugh	Mar. 16- Matthew Johnson	Mar. 23- Katie Beaman
Feb. 28- Lindsey Bays Chris Lopez Kali Langworthy	Mar. 6- Mary Thorne	Mar. 17- Lee Waruszewski Evan Bultema Quentin Thrall Austyn Henderson	Mar. 25- Silja Soittila Adrekis Stillson
Feb. 29- Samantha Colquitt	Mar. 7- Corinne Beckman Kyle Baustert	Mar. 18- Tyler Quillen	Mar. 26- Andrea Garvey Kari Grove
Mar. 1- Autumn Sherman Francella Currier	Mar. 8- Brittany White	Mar. 19- Lauren West Shashaina Dagen	Mar. 27- Patrick Johnson
Mar. 2- Kim Champoux Kyle Zack	Mar. 9- Allison Burchart Forrest Bernhardt	Mar. 20- Jenna Pesch Samantha Jo Bennett	Mar. 28- Grant Lamb Rachaelle Booms
	Mar. 10- Chris Saunders	Mar. 21- Thomas Collins Jordan Duff Janelle Uganski Katrina Smith	Mar. 29- Krystal Swarts Daniel Stout Faith Wilbur

Whitehall High School

school earlier than the regular start time and get out in the early afternoon. Although the zero hour has not been entirely confirmed, the school does plan to add it to the new scheduling in upcoming years. The school only plans to add in the zero hour if students express that they want the different start times.

Switching the school's scheduling will be a big step. The school hopes by gaining new classes that appeal to students, students will be more encouraged to enjoy school, according to McKenzie. The school also hopes by increasing time spent in core classes, kids who struggle, will better understand the material, and will improve their grades. The new schedule will also allow more time for students who excel to advance in their learning in core classes. The new scheduling will take some time to adjust to, but it is hoped to go well. Other things such as grade point averages and failing rates will also be looked at throughout the course of the year. While some people are still on the line about the scheduling, it is expected that once it is here, most people will like the change.

Keeping Up With the Counselors

By: Sam Huebler

The week of February 6-10, the nation recognized counselors in schools as they celebrated National School Counseling Week. Counselors were recognized during this week because of their importance in schools. A big part of students' education relies on the tasks that counselors perform. Mrs. Karen

Hicks, the Whitehall High School counselor, schedules students' classes, balances out classes with the number of students in each period, and helps seniors with college advising.

One part of her job is to help eighth-grade students at the middle school and tenth-grade students at the high school with Career Cruising. Career Cruising has students enter information in a computer. The small quizzes help students narrow down what career path they would like to pursue. This also helps students at the high school decide what classes they should take.

Hicks is also available for personal counseling. Students go for support with things that trouble them. It is all a part of her job as a counselor, she enjoys being around students and helping them in any way she can.

Seniors go to Hicks when they have questions about financial aid. There are always options for students who need the additional



Mrs. Hicks is the high school counselor.

support, and most of which can be found through Hicks. For more information, the student services office located in the high school has flyers and information about financial aid.

Some people get confused

when it comes to Mrs. Lisa Brown's job at the high school because of how similar some of her tasks are to Hicks. Brown works as an administrative assistant and helps new students enroll, provides support for seniors with accurate transcript recordings and scholarship applications, and keeps track of all of the students' credits. Questions regarding transcripts can be asked directed to Brown.

Students are pleased with the advice and counseling that Hicks provides and appreciate her support. She said, "Working with the students is my favorite part of my job." She has an important role in the high school's function as a counselor by reaching out to students who seek information.

The Fight to End Bullying

By: Lauren Throne

Imagine a world where every day you constantly dread walking through the school halls, living in fear of other students. For bully victims, this world is a reality. Fortunately, many students at Whitehall High School do not know what it feels like to be bullied on a daily basis.

To help ensure this, the Peer Assistance class presented a program to the freshmen class on January 25. The students named the program "Kind words are the music of the world'-F.W. Faber." Directed by peer assistance students Lindsey Fuller, Isaac Love and Morgan Kellis, the program consisted of several skits that the students performed.

Throughout the day, freshmen would visit the

Whitehall High School



Pastor Steve talked to the students after the skits.



Seth Schmiedeknecht and Matthew Ferguson played a big role in the



Janelle Uganski played the role of Patty during the 'Pregnant Patty' skit.

auditorium to experience

the program. Once they were welcomed by two peer assistant students, the freshmen watched a video, "Let's Stop Bullying." The video encouraged students not to bully others and to find help and stand up for themselves if they were victims. Next, students watched performances by peer assistants. In the "Pregnant Patty" skit, students learned about rape and the consequences of it. The skit called "Images" showed students the dangers of sexting, and how one small mistake can change their lives forever, even costing them jobs and college acceptance. Students learned not to judge others in the "Dean's Bad Day" skit. In the "Trickle Effect" skit, students learned how one small thing can affect a number of people in various ways. In the "Chens" skit, the group learned that if they bullied a student enough, he may seriously injure or kill those who bullied him. The "Soccer" skit showed students that bullying a student can cause them to move schools. The "Big Russ" skit taught students not to pick on others for their size. The last skit performed, the "Winston's Bad Day" skit, showed students how bullying someone can cause them to commit suicide. After the skits were concluded, Pastor Steve Rodenburg of White Lake Baptist Church shared his story with the group. He wanted to tell students that they can still have happy and successful lives even if they are being bullied. Once Pastor Steve shared his experience, the peer assistants tossed candy into the crowd of freshmen before they headed to the gym to get involved in team building games such as the human knot.

The program was mainly organized by Mrs. Laurie Hoffman, peer assistance teacher, and Mrs.

Erin McAllister, a parent volunteer. Hoffman had the idea for the program after hearing about other schools doing similar programs. Junior Libby Gillhespy said, "The program was influenced to be about bullying because as freshmen, kids here in high school get teased much more often. They come into the school as the youngest and don't know what to expect, so we wanted to help that." When asked how the freshmen responded, Gillhespy said, "At first, we were the ones who needed to warm up to the freshmen. Many of us had never done anything like that before. But, as we moved along, both the freshmen and peer assistants seemed to enjoy the program." Freshman Rebekah Beeghly said, "I thought it was a great experience, I really enjoyed it. It opened my eyes to what is going on in the world. It made me think more about what I say and do." Overall, the program was a success.

Women's Leadership Conference

By: Jessica Harris

Honing skills to become better teammates were the skills learned at the two day conference geared specifically toward girls. Female athletes attended a Women's Athletic Conference in Lansing on February 5 and 6. The girls who attended the conference were juniors Emily Dennis, Ashley Mills, Morgan Kellis, and Bailey Seeger; sophomore Janelle Uganski, Jenna Pesch; and freshmen Jessica Harris and Emily McArthur. Many skills were learned at the conference that the athletes will use in the future.

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Women's Leadership Conference Continued...

Through a number of workshops, athletes learned how to better their teams, and how to be a good teammate. The girls learned about the importance of teamwork, listening to their teammates, being honest, and getting to know their teammates. "I really enjoyed being able to bond with my teammates and learning how to talk to different kinds of people on my team," said Kellis. Many special guest speakers came to talk to the girls from well-known colleges such as Kathy DeBoer, coach of Kentucky College Woman's volleyball, Kathy McGee, Central Michigan's Women's Basketball coach, and Suzy Merchant, basketball coach at Michigan State University. They talked about how teams need enthusiasm, hard work, and passion to be able to succeed to a team's best. "From this conference

I've learned a lot about how to be a caring teammate while being able to bond with my team," said McArthur.

The athletes were sent to this conference not only to learn, but to also find the leader within them. "The lessons learned here will help our future teams greatly," said Dennis. Both Coach Rachel Kent and Kathy Hector agreed that they see leadership potential in each of the girls. "If I had to describe the experience in two words I'd say it was energizing and motivational," said Coach Hector. They hope the girls will take what they learned and share it with their future teams. The girls plan on being honest, being caring toward their teammates, and having an optimistic attitude while being on future teams. "This was definitely a fun and educational experience that future Whitehall athletes

should enjoy as well," said Uganski.

The Whitehall female athletes learned many lessons about teamwork and teammates and how to be a great leader for their teams. Great memories were made during this experience in a hope for the athletes to become better athletes and bring success and an "everyone is one" atmosphere to their future teams. This conference was a fun and educational experience for the Whitehall coaches and athletes.

Logging On for A New Way to Learn

By: Andrea Garvey

Although technology can sometimes distract students from school work, another useful method was found to turn technology into a tool for students' learning. Online computer classes have been more popular at Whitehall High School, as there are more students taking online classes this year than there have been in the past four or five years. The average number of students taking online classes at Whitehall has been about 20 students. However, this year, there are approximately 75 students taking them.

Students that would like to take online classes would have to sign up through the counseling

office, or talk to Mr. Steve Lucas, the mentor for online classes. However, Lucas said, "There may be fees that students must pay for books, or software related items that students need to add to their own computer." However, if a student fails to pass the online course they chose to take, they will not receive a credit, and it will show up on their transcript. Some online classes will also require the student to pay money if they fail it.

Lucas said that there are a large variety of classes that are available online. If students need to take online classes to recover credits, they do so through a company called E2020. However, the elective classes students choose to take are taken through Michigan Virtual High School.

High school Principal, Dale

McKenzie, said that although students from many different grades are taking online classes this year, the requirements next year will be more strict. McKenzie said he wants to push online learning mainly to juniors and seniors because online classes will be more useful to them. However, if it will be in the best interest for freshmen and sophomores, they may take online classes more specifically for credit recovery.

For online classes, McKenzie said laptops are not required, but students can use their own laptops. McKenzie also said he has no problem with students using their laptops in the classroom as well. Laptops have many useful features during class. For example, a student who uses

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their laptop in class would have the option to type their notes as opposed to writing them. McKenzie said this can be more quick and efficient for students.

Senior, Abby McCormick, takes an online French class during fifth period. McCormick said she has mixed



Senior Alayna Klco takes her French class online using a microphone headset.

feelings about online classes. "I liked it in the beginning when I was learning basic French, but as it has gone on it has gotten a lot harder." Another thing she feels uncertain about is that her online class has no deadlines. McCormick said, "I like the freedom of not having a teacher, but I get really behind sometimes." McCormick feels that online classes are much more convenient to seniors. She said, "It's nice to be able to study something that might actually benefit you in the future, instead of filling an hour with a gym class or something." However, McCormick also feels that online classes should not be for underclassmen because they should be working on getting all the credits they still need to graduate.

Overall, online classes have their advantages and disadvantages like everything else. Students who work better on their own and are disciplined would probably benefit more from online classes, whereas other students who need more direction would probably work better in a classroom. That is something students should take into consideration before attempting to take online courses. Sign up sheets are available for online courses in the counseling office.

VALHALLA

This newsletter is produced by the Viking Communications Class of Whitehall High School. Students in grades nine through twelve learn various skills producing this newsletter. Writing, photography, layout, interviewing, and communication skills are just some of the advantages students gain from participating in this class.



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