

WMS NEWS



From the Principal's Desk:

Dear WMS Families,
I hope this message finds you well. Our students have been working hard, and I would like to take a moment to share a few important updates and upcoming events at our school.

New Tardy Policy Begins November 17, 2025

In an effort to support student responsibility and maximize learning time, we will be implementing a new tardy policy starting Monday, November 17, 2025. Our goal is to help students develop positive habits that prepare them for success both in and out of school.

Here's how the new policy will work:

- 1st–2nd Tardy: Teacher warning
- 3rd Tardy: Teacher phone call home to notify parent/guardian
- 4th Tardy: Lunch detention and office communication to parent/guardian
- 5th Tardy: Lunch detention and office communication to parent/guardian
- 6th+ Tardy: Lunch detention and parent meeting with an administrator

We appreciate your partnership in encouraging students to arrive on time and ready to learn each day.

Introducing: Parent Pulse

We're excited to announce the launch of a new parent group, Parent Pulse! This initiative is designed to strengthen the connection between families and our school community. Our first-ever Parent Pulse meeting will take place on Thursday, November 20, 2025. We invite all parents and guardians to join us as we discuss ways to collaborate in creating the best possible middle school experience for our students. Your voice matters, and we look forward to hearing your ideas and feedback.

Thanksgiving Break

As a reminder, Thanksgiving Break begins on Wednesday, November 26, and students will return to school on Monday, December 1. We hope you enjoy a restful and joyful holiday with your loved ones!

Craig Thompson
WMS Principal

WMS Believes...

1. Students must feel safe, cared for, and valued for learning to take place.
2. It's our job to spark student curiosity and help students identify/pursue their interests.
3. Students thrive on intentional structure.
4. School decisions should reflect the distinctive nature of middle school students.

Advisory Theme of the Month:

This November, the WMS advisory program is centered on the theme "Gratitude." Throughout the month, classes will engage in dynamic conversations and activities to explore what it truly means to be appreciative. We are highlighting how kindness and acts of service are positive and effective ways to demonstrate gratitude. We're already seeing it in action: Mrs. McGrew's classes kicked things off by sharing their appreciation with staff through thoughtful "thank you" notes!

7th and 8th grade Social:

There will be a dance for 7th and 8th grade students on Friday, December 5th, from 6:00–8:00 PM in the middle school cafeteria. The gym will also be open for athletic activities — so whether you want to dance or play, there's something for everyone! If you are interested in chaperoning, please call the middle school office at 893-1030 or email sarahsholty@whitehallschools.net.

6th Grade News:

Geography: Students are learning about World Population, Migration, and Culture this week!

Science: We are continuing our study of Biology.

English: We are wrapping up Module 1, Unit 1. Students will complete the End-of-Unit Assessment this week. They should have also completed their RACES (constructed reading response) plan and answer. Additionally, notebook checks (classwork) have been completed. In short, both students and parents can look forward to seeing many graded assignments added to PowerSchool between this week and next. Looking forward to Module 1, Unit 2, we will continue reading and analyzing Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief, which will culminate in a written compare-and-contrast essay.

Math: We are starting a new unit of study on Unit Rates and Percentages. Students will apply ratio reasoning from Unit 2 to unit rates and recognize that equivalent ratios have the same unit rates. They will use a variety of strategies and representations of percentages to determine missing percentages, parts, and wholes.

7th Grade News:

World History: Our 7th grade students just wrapped up learning about Ancient India, and now we are starting to learn about Ancient China. We will have our next quiz on Ancient China and Ancient India on November 17.

Science: Mr. Huizenga’s Science classes are wrapping up our unit on Forces and Newton’s 3 Laws. We will be finishing the with a group presentation on one of the major topics from the past two units. Next up, different States and Forms of Energy.

English: We are beginning to plan and write a children’s E-book about a Lost Boy or Girl of Sudan! Right now we’re still in the prep phase, but students should have their E-books completed before the Thanksgiving break.

Math: In Math class, 7th graders are finishing up Unit 3 on Measuring Circles and will have their assessment on that unit next week. We will then begin work on Unit 4, Proportional Relationships and Percentages, and work at deepening their understanding of proportions. This unit is a bit longer than the last couple and will probably take us nearly into the Christmas holiday break. If you are looking to access Amplify Desmos to assist your child, try the following address on your computer and view the 7th grade information.

<https://amplify.com/caregiver-hub/amplify-desmos-math-6-12/>

If the address does not work, let your child’s math teacher know.

8th Grade News:

United States History: Over the next few weeks, we will finish up our unit on the Articles of Confederation & U.S. Constitution. We will have a QUIZ on Friday, November 21. Our goal after Thanksgiving break is to start a new unit on Westward Expansion.

Math: The Math 8 students have a mid-unit quiz this Friday. This will cover creating linear equations, and understanding the relationship between two variables. We will then continue the unit throughout the next couple of weeks. This will include finding slope, and understanding what it means in the context of the situation. The Unit 3 Test will be before Thanksgiving Break.

Algebra: The algebra students will be starting their 2 variable stat projects. This will be the assessment for unit 3.

Science: Rocks and Minerals - why are we studying them, because we interact with them every day from brushing our teeth to picking out building materials for everyday life. Students learned the differences between minerals and rocks. Parents, dust off your old rock collections, because we will be asking students to bring them in for a school rock “show and tell”. Stay tuned for details

English: Students are working on analyzing aspects of character, the meaning of words in context, and reading between the lines to comprehend textual meaning. We’re still working with Summer of the Mariposas, and students are doing a phenomenal job!

Ms. Feenstra’s class:

ELA and Social Studies- We are working through our Sacagawea unit to learn more about her bravery and perseverance.

Science- We are identifying natural resources that Native Americans used and what we use today. We are also learning how to conserve the resources we use on a daily basis. Finally, identifying the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources.

Math- We are finishing up our multiplication unit and starting to work on solving real-world problems with different operations, along with further understanding division.

Viking Express- The next Viking Express will be on Friday, November 14th, during all lunch periods.

Electives News:

Spotlight on Gym:

Amazing how fast time is going by. This week marks the end of the 12th week of school. This means that we only have 6 more weeks left in the first semester.

Next week, 6th-8th-grade PE classes will be starting a game creation project. Students will create a new game, teach their game to the other students in class, who will then play the new game. Students will be graded on the creation of their game, the presentation of their game, the running/officiating of their game, and their participation in the games that others create. This project will take us into Thanksgiving break.

Athletics:

Boys Basketball:

7th Grade:

Nov 17, 4:00 PM, vs Mason County Central Middle School @ Whitehall Middle School
Nov 19 4:00 PM @ Orchard View Middle/High School

Nov 24 4:00 PM vs North Muskegon Middle School @ Whitehall Middle School
Nov 25 4:00 PM vs Montague NBC Middle School @ Whitehall Middle School

8th Grade:

Nov 17, 5:15 PM, vs Mason County Central Middle School @ Whitehall Middle School
Nov 19 5:15 PM @ Orchard View Middle/High School
Nov 24 5:15 PM vs North Muskegon Middle School @ Whitehall Middle School
Nov 25 5:15 PM vs Montague NBC Middle School @ Whitehall Middle School

Clubs:

Session 1 Afterschool News

Plant Club—remaining dates: 11/18, 11/25

Advisor: Ms. Tate

It’s not too late for students to join Plant Club! We have four meetings remaining in Session1. At our last meeting, we learned about avocados and made our own guacamole. Each student also prepared their avocado pit for germination. Next week we will plant tomato seeds that spent 8 weeks on the International Space Station to see how exposure to radiation impacts germination and plant growth. Plant Club meets in room 20 after school until 4:15.

Craft Club: Starting soon! Mondays 2:55-4:15; meeting dates 11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15

Advisor: Ms. Feenstra

Craft Club is looking for students who like to hang out in a relaxed environment and make friends while creating cool projects. During this session, students will be making various holiday crafts that they can take home.

Shoe Club: The next shoe club meeting will be held on November 20th after school in room 20 until 4:15.

Looking ahead:

Session 2 (January-February) Art Club, Yoga Club, Running Club

Session 3 (March-April) Book Club, Ukulele Club