

WHITEFORD AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent of Schools



SUPERINTENDENT FAMILY BULLETIN
JANUARY 21, 2024

GREETING

Hey, Bobcats! We will have reached the mid-way point of the 2023-2024 school year this week! I appreciate everyone's understanding as we had to constantly adjust our school calendar and ms/hs exam schedule due to the weather. I can't express how grateful I am for your continued support of our district. As we reach the mid-way point of the school year, I like to reflect on all that has been achieved. Our students continue to excel in the classroom, on the athletic field/court, and through the musical arts. Our staff continues to put forth great effort in maintaining not only a safe and respectful learning environment for our students that focuses on academic rigor, but also an awareness of student social-emotional wellbeing. Our administrative team continues to put forth great efforts to ensure the safety and security of our students and staff through planning and training. The administrative team is working hard to support and coach staff as they continue to grow as teachers and support staff members. The administrative team and Board of Education continue to keep the Strategic Plan as our "North Star" as decisions are being made for this and coming school years. Whiteford Schools are growing and improving because of all stakeholders. Our community continues to support our learning community by attending events, volunteering in the schools, completing surveys, and joining committees. We ALL want what is best for all our children. We are better Together - We are Whiteford!

SAFETY FOCUS STAKEHOLDER GROUP

On Thursday (1/18/24), eight participants attended the focus group meeting that was facilitated by Superintendent Huard. Participants identified strengths and weaknesses for some current safety and security policies and procedures. They also considered current survey data collected from parents/guardians, students, and staff. The details and outcomes of that meeting can be found by accessing the district website under "Our District" and "School Safety" or [here](#). Once on the safety page, scroll down to "Safety Meetings" under "Safety Focus Stakeholder Group." There you can access the presentation and meeting outcomes document that also includes links to the recent safety surveys. The focus group offered the following recommendations to be considered by the Safety Council: Reunification Process; Targeted Drills; Peer Mediation/Restorative Practices; Middle School Counselor; Speed Traffic Lights; Internal/External Cameras. Superintendent Huard will be giving the Board of Education a briefing of outcomes/recommendations at the February 12, 2024 regular meeting at 6pm in the Board Rm.

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

The Whiteford Agricultural School District's Portrait of a Graduate will represent our school district's vision for the 21st century skills, character traits, and/or social-emotional competencies that students need to succeed in college, career, and life.

- What are the hopes, dreams, and aspirations that our community has for its students?
- What are the skills and mindsets our children need for success in this rapidly changing, complex world?
- What are the implications for the design of the learning experiences—and equitable access to those experiences—we provide in our school system?

The first survey was completed by stakeholders in March 2023 asking to identify their top 10 competencies for a graduate of Whiteford High School. These survey results narrowed the list of competencies from 30 to 11. A second survey was conducted in May 2023 to narrow the list to the top 6 competencies. Those six competencies are: Responsibility, Communication, Critical Thinking, Confidence, Leadership, and Adaptability.

We are seeking volunteers to join a committee to continue work in creating a Whiteford Portrait of a Graduate. The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 5:30pm. If you are interested in attending, please contact Scott Huard at: scott.huard@whiteford.k12.mi.us.

ENROLLMENT VISION/ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Stakeholders had two opportunities to hear an update from October's Strategic Planning Stakeholder Meetings, share feedback and interest regarding the scope and costs associated with a possible elementary and athletic bond project, and understand next steps as we consider solutions to stabilize enrollment, lower class sizes, and address athletic complex needs. Stakeholders learned that the bond project would be a ZERO millage bond extension that could raise \$10 million dollars. There would be no tax rate increase as the current 4.93 millage would remain 4.93 for an additional six (6) years with the extension. If you were unable to attend the 12/13/23 or 1/10/24 meetings, you can view the video segments on the district website under "Our District" and "Strategic Plan" or [here](#). The presentation from the meeting can be accessed here: [Whiteford Bond Planning Stakeholder Meeting 12/13/24](#).

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION MONTH

January is School Board Member Recognition Month across the state of Michigan! At Whiteford Agricultural Schools, we are grateful for our seven Trustees who dedicate their time and energy to serve students, staff, and families. School board members are Trustees, responsible for a trust established by the community. The most important beneficiaries of this trust are the public school students within our learning community. Thank you to our school board members: Shane Hillard (President), Dave Dixon (Vice President), Mike Iott (Secretary), Janelle Young (Treasurer), Kristi Mock, Jeff Bunge, and Jason Vida. We are thankful for their ongoing commitment to the Whiteford Agricultural School District. Information regarding our Board of Education: <https://www.whiteford.k12.mi.us/board-of-education/>

STUDENT ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL SAFETY

As you may be aware, part of our Bond Series work addressed student and staff arrival and dismissal as we created a new bus loop for dropping off and picking up students. This loop has helped alleviate most of our arrival and dismissal safety concerns with congestion and traffic patterns at both buildings. We appreciate those individuals that show kindness, patience, and an awareness of students, staff, or guests walking in the parking lots or crosswalks. Yielding to another vehicle or person is always appreciated in an effort to maintain the safety of all. For improvement with arrival, we ask that our elementary parents utilize the six (6) designated spots for dropping off your child in front of the elementary. We ask adults to stay inside their vehicles unless you need to get out to assist a child in a booster seat. At dismissal, we have a slight back-up on Consear in front of the middle/high school building. If you are picking up a ms/hs child in front of the building, we ask that parents utilize the entire curb space by parking as close to the car in front of you or consider pulling into an open parking space to wait for your child. Thank you for helping to make a positive change and provide a safe environment for our learning community!

WINTER HOMECOMING

Winter Homecoming is scheduled for Friday, February 2 as the Varsity/JV Boys take on Summerfield. The JV game will start at 5:30pm with the Hall of Fame inductees being recognized prior to the varsity boys' game. Mr. and Mrs. Whiteford will also be crowned during this special evening. We hope that our community will attend as we celebrate our Winter Homecoming Game. The Winterfest Dance for our high school students will be held the following evening at 7pm in the middle school gym.

SCHOOL THREATS ARE NO JOKE

Now, more than ever, we need to maintain a partnership with parents/guardians to convey a consistent message to our students that regardless of intentions, it is not okay to talk about violence towards individuals, groups, or the school community on social media platforms or with friends. We are asking parents or guardians to clearly communicate with their student(s) that violent threats and behaviors are not acceptable. A discussion around possible consequences such as school suspension or expulsion, or prosecution by the Monroe County Prosecutor's Office for making threats of violence would also be appropriate. We ask that parents/guardians continue to stress the importance of how/when to report concerning behavior by utilizing the [OK2SAY](#) student safety program, Monroe County Sheriff's Dispatch Center, and/or communicating directly to a Whiteford staff member or school administration. Together, we can be vigilant in identifying possible threats of violence!

ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS SURVEY

We are seeking some information from families regarding Kindergarten enrollment projections as well as interest in a Young 5 or Transitional Kindergarten Program. Please complete the following survey if you will be enrolling Kindergarten student(s) in the future based upon your current situation: [Whiteford Kindergarten Enrollment Survey](#).

FEBRUARY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The next Board of Education meeting is February 12, 2024. The meeting will begin at 6pm in the board room located in the MS/HS. The Board of Education agenda is posted the Friday preceding a meeting: [BOE Agenda & Minutes](#).

SCHOOL DELAYS / CLOSINGS

School closing or delay announcements will be sent via the Infinite Campus Messenger systems and announced on the following television stations: Channel 11 (CBS) and Channel 13 (ABC). Announcements should occur no later than 7am. Parents and students are asked NOT to call the school or school officials. When school is delayed due to fog/snow/ice or other emergency conditions, it will be delayed for a minimum of two (2) hours.

STRATEGIC PLAN PILLARS OF SUCCESS

[Whiteford Strategic Plan 2022-2027](#)

→ **ENGAGED** in purposeful learning.

→ **EMPOWERED** for a meaningful role in our dynamic world.

→ **ENCOURAGED** by our community.

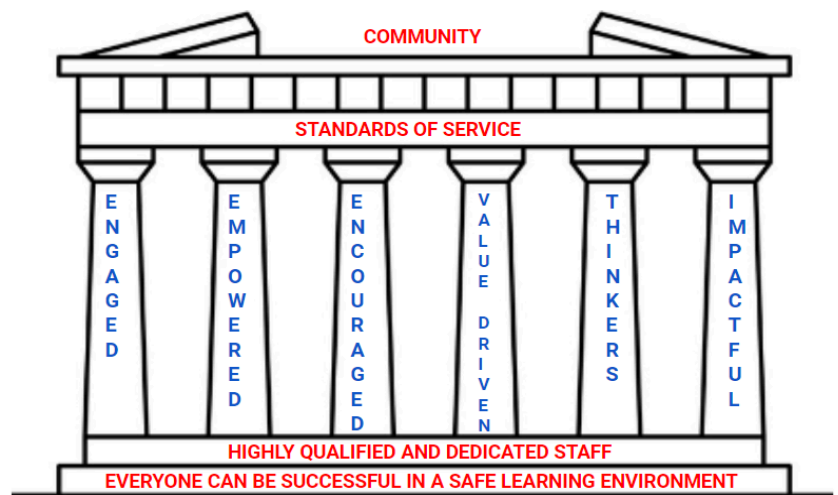
→ **VALUE DRIVEN** leaders.

→ Critical **THINKERS**.

→ **IMPACTFUL** in their community.

→ **STANDARDS OF SERVICE** We will treat all stakeholders (students, staff, parents/guardians, community members) with respect, kindness, and professionalism at all times.

→ **COMMUNITY** promotes, cultivates, and celebrates student and district success.



BREAKFAST/LUNCH MENUS

<https://whiteford.nutrislice.com/menu>

SCHOOL CALENDARS

[2023-2024 School Calendar](#)

[2024-2025 School Calendar](#)

ATHLETICS WEBSITE/CALENDAR

<https://www.whiteford.k12.mi.us/athletics/>

THIS WEEK

January 22	MS/HS Exams: Blocks 5/8
January 23	MS/HS Exams: Blocks 6/7
January 23	Early Release Elementary 10:55am; MS/HS 11:05am
January 23	Whiteford Parent Association (WPA) Mtg 6pm Elementary Cafeteria
January 24	MS/HS Exams: Blocks 2/3
January 24	FFA Leadership Contests (Districts) 3:30pm Dundee High School
January 24	End of 2nd Marking Period

January 27 WPA Family Fun Night 6pm MS Gym

UPCOMING

Jan. 29-Feb. 2 Winterfest Week
January 30 After Prom Committee Meeting 7pm MS/HS Media Center
February 3 MSVMA District 12 HS Solo & Ensemble 8am MS Gym
February 3 HS Winterfest Dance 7pm MS Gym
February 6 Whiteford Recreation Meeting 7pm MS/HS Media Center
February 7 FFA Leadership Contests (Regionals) 3:30pm Saline High School
February 12 Board of Education Meeting 6pm Board Rm
February 16 No School - Teacher Professional Development
February 19 No School - Presidents Day
February 20 5th Grade Spelling Bee
February 20 Early Release Elementary 10:55am; MS/HS 11:05am
February 20 Parent-Teacher Conferences 12-3pm
February 21 5th Grade Mini Society
February 27 5th Grade Mini Society
February 28 FFA Field Trip: State Convention MSU
February 29 Portrait of a Graduate Committee Mtg 5:30pm Board Rm
March 5 Whiteford Recreation Meeting 7pm MS/HS Media Center
March 11-15 Washington DC Trip
March 11 Board of Education Meeting 6pm MS/HS Board Rm
March 14 Field Trip: K-5th Croswell Opera House
March 14 KG Round-Up 1-7pm Elementary
March 15 HS Spring Musical 7:30pm HS Gym
March 16 HS Spring Musical 7:30pm HS Gym
March 17 HS Spring Musical 2:30pm HS Gym
March 22 End of 3rd Marking period
March 22 Early Release Elementary 10:55am; MS/HS 11:05am
Mar. 23-April 1 Spring Break
March 31 Easter
April 1 No School - Easter Break
April 2 Whiteford Recreation Meeting 7pm MS/HS Media Center
April 8 Board of Education Meeting 6pm MS/HS Board Rm
April 10 State Testing Day
April 19 FFA Career Development Events
April 22 American Red Cross Blood Drive 9am Auxiliary Gym
April 28-29 FFA Field Trip: Leadership Camp
May 2 5th Grade Field Trip: Toledo Zoo 9:30am
May 3 FFA Banquet 5pm MS Gym
May 4-June 2 FFA Greenhouse Open
May 7 Whiteford Recreation Meeting 7pm MS/HS Media Center
May 8 MS Field Trip: Mud Hens Game 9am
May 10 FFA Ag Awareness Day
May 13 Board of Education Meeting 6pm Board Rm
May 14 5th Grade Field Trip: Sauder Village 8:15am

My best,



Scott L. Huard, ED.S.
Superintendent

scott.huard@whiteford.k12.mi.us

734-856-1443 Ext. 101