

WHITEFORD AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent of Schools



SUPERINTENDENT FAMILY BULLETIN
DECEMBER 17, 2023

GREETING

Hey, Bobcat Families! I can't believe we are just SIX days from Christmas Eve! As a kid, the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas couldn't pass quickly enough until Christmas morning. Being a kid in the 70s and 80s, I had hopes and dreams of opening many popular toys or electronics: Rubik's Cube, Transformers, Speak and Spell, View Master, Nerf Football, Walkman, or an Atari Game System! As an adult and father, the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas passes way too quickly now with the busyness of life. I no longer hope and dream for toys and presents on Christmas morning because, as we learned from the famous Dr. Seuss, "Christmas doesn't come from a store, maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more."

With a married daughter, son-in-law, and grandchild living in Florida, a son at MSU, three daughters at home, and extended family in Ohio, I now eagerly anticipate every opportunity to gather together, especially for Christmas. Time with family is something I will forever cherish each Christmas no matter how short of a time it may be. It allows us to catch up with each other, laugh, and reminisce on memories of the past.

Although the holiday season can bring with it a variety of emotions, I hope all of our Whiteford families will be able to enjoy some time with family and friends. I wish each of you a safe and restful Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We are better together - We are Whiteford!



Merry Christmas

FROM THE HUARD FAMILY

NOVEMBER STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Amanda Diesing, sixth-grade teacher, was recognized at December's Board of Education Meeting as the November Staff Member of the Month. Amanda was nominated by Jay Yockey and Malinda Luzier for her exceptional work in starting our middle school student council and volunteer hours that support our students. Chris MacMillian with Leski Wittman Insurance presented Amanda with a gift card. Congratulations to Amanda!

STRATEGIC PLAN BOND PLANNING

On Wednesday (12/13/23), stakeholders had their first opportunity 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 meeting, it is recommended that you attend the 1/10/24 meeting at 6:30pm in rooms 2/3 of the middle/high school building. The presentation from the meeting can be accessed here: [Whiteford Bond Planning Stakeholder Meeting 12/13/24](#)

2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

At the December 11 Board of Education Meeting, the [2024-2025 Whiteford School Calendar](#) was approved.

SUPERINTENDENT FAMILY BULLETIN

With the holidays, the next Superintendent Family Bulletin will be published on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

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 by Friday (12/22) if you will be enrolling Kindergarten student(s) in the future based upon your current situation: [Whiteford Kindergarten Enrollment Survey](#).

23-24 SCHOOL CALENDAR AMENDMENT

At the November (11/30) Special Board of Education Meeting, the 2023-2024 School Calendar was amended to reflect the addition of an Early Release on Monday, December 18, 2023. On Monday (12/18), the Whiteford staff will be trained on our new SmartBoot Security System. At the April 17, 2023 Board of Education Meeting, the BOE approved the purchase of the LockOut USA Security System. The installation process is nearly complete. Our first step in the system becoming active is to train staff and students. Staff will be trained on 12/18 in the afternoon after students are released, and students will be trained in January 2024. For 12/18, the elementary will dismiss at 10:55am, and the MS/HS will dismiss at 11:05am. Bus transportation for our students will still be provided home. You can learn more about this security system at: <https://lockoutusa.com/>.

SAFETY STAKEHOLDER FOCUS MEETING

As part of our Strategic Plan goal to improve culture and learning environments, we have contracted with American Threat Assessment & Protection to evaluate our current safety processes and procedures at Whiteford. As a way to gather stakeholder safety perception data, we are seeking individuals that would be interested in attending a stakeholder meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024 beginning at 6:30pm in the Board Rm. This meeting is intended to allow an opportunity to learn more about the perceptions of our stakeholders. If you are a parent, guardian, student, staff, or community member, we value your perspective, and we would like for you to consider participating in this focus group meeting. If you are interested in attending, please contact Scott Huard at: scott.huard@whiteford.k12.mi.us. There is a School Safety Focus Group Pre-Assessment survey that will be completed prior to the meeting.

JANUARY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The next Board of Education meeting is January 8, 2023. 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.

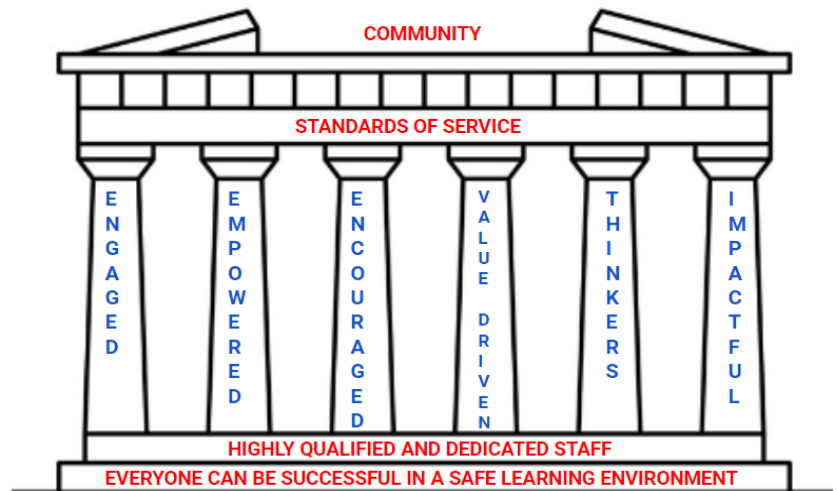
→ **VALUE DRIVEN** leaders.

→ 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

December 17 HS Christmas Concert 3pm MS Gym
December 18 Elem Spirit: Jingle Bell Rock Day (Bells will be provided to students)
December 18 Early Release Elementary 10:55am; MS/HS 11:05am
December 18 MS Christmas Concert 7pm MS Gym
December 19 Elem Spirit: Tacky Sweater Day
December 20 Elem Spirit: White Outfit Day
December 20 Ensemble Performance: Toledo Zoo 5pm
December 21 Elem Spirit: Holiday Character Day
December 22 Elem Spirit: Pajama Day
December 22 Early Release Elementary 10:55am; MS/HS 11:05am

UPCOMING

Dec. 23-Jan. 2 No School - Winter Break
January 3-19 School of Choice 105c Window
January 6 Robotics Kickoff 10am MS/HS Media Center
January 8 Board of Education Meeting 6pm Board Room

January 10	Stakeholder Bond Feedback & Interest Meeting 6:30pm MS Rooms 2-3
January 15	No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 18	Early Release Elementary 10:55am; MS/HS 11:05am
January 18	Safety Stakeholder Focus Meeting 6:30pm Board Rm
January 19	Early Release Elementary 10:55am; MS/HS 11:05am
January 19	End of 2nd Marking Period
January 24	FFA Leadership Contests (Districts) 3:30pm Dundee High School
January 27	WPA Family Fun Night 6pm MS Gym
February 3	MSVMA District 12 HS Solo & Ensemble 8am MS Gym
February 6	Whiteford Recreation Meeting 7pm MS/HS Media Center
February 7	FFA Leadership Contests (Regionals) 3:30pm Saline High School
February 16	No School - Teacher Professional Development
February 19	No School - Presidents Day
February 20	Early Release Elementary 10:55am; MS/HS 11:05am
February 20	Parent-Teacher Conferences 12-3pm
February 28	FFA Field Trip: State Convention MSU
March 5	Whiteford Recreation Meeting 7 pm MS/HS Media Center
March 11-15	Washington DC Trip
March 14	Field Trip: K-5th Croswell Opera House
March 15	HS Spring Musical 7:30pm HS Gym
March 16	HS Spring Musical 7:30pm HS Gym
March 17	HS Spring Musical 2:30 HS Gym
March 22	End of 3rd Marking period
March 22	Early Release Elementary 10:55am; MS/HS 11:05am
Mar. 23-Apr. 1	Spring Break
March 31	Easter
April 1	No School - Easter Break

My best,



Scott L. Huard, ED.S.
Superintendent