

GRETCHKO NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 12, 2021



**NO SCHOOL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15 -TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 16 - REMOTE ON FEB 18 RETURN TO
HYBRID COHORT LEARNING ON THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 18**

FEBRUARY 15 -16 - WINTER BREAK WBSD MEAL SERVICE PICK UP INFORMATION

No cost meals are available for curbside pick up to all children in the community.

Each child will receive:

- 7 breakfast and lunch meals.

- Please pre-order meals on the West Bloomfield School District Food Service page or at the [linked order form](#).

Pick up sites:

- **West Bloomfield HS main entrance** (4925 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield)
 - Pick-up day: Wednesday or by special arrangement
 - Times: 11:30am-12:30pm or 3:30pm-4:30pm or by special arrangement
- **Roosevelt Elementary main entrance** (2065 Cass Lake Road, Keego Harbor)
 - Pick-up day: Wednesday
 - Time: 11:00am-1:00pm

GREAT NEWS!

We are now able to arrange a picture day for our school. We have scheduled picture day for March 5th. All students will be photographed for identification purposes. Picture packages will be available for purchase. Information will be sent home closer to our picture day.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT

The West Bloomfield School District Board of Education unanimously approved a 2.0 mill non-homestead millage restoration proposal during their Jan. 25 regular meeting. This proposal will appear on the May 4, 2021 ballot.

The ballot proposal seeks restoration of the non-homestead tax rate that was approved by voters in 2014. Dr. Gerald Hill, WBSD superintendent, said that since the school district's non-

homestead millage was approved by voters in 2014, it has been rolled back because of reductions required by the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution. "Rollbacks mean a reduction in revenue earmarked for student instruction. These rollbacks have shorted the school district's operating budget by more than \$1.3 million over the last six years," Hill added.

Board of Education President, Stacy Brickman explained that restoration of the non-homestead millage is the school district's obligation. "Michigan law provides that schools are funded by a six-mill levy on primary residences and by an 18-mill non-homestead levy on businesses and second homes," she added.

The State does not help school districts restore revenue lost as a result of roll backs. That is the local school district's responsibility. "So, in effect, by restoring the non-homestead millage we are doing what State law requires us to do to finance our schools," Brickman said. "In order for the school district to receive State aid to which it is entitled, the school district has to levy 18 mills on non-homestead property."

The ballot proposal calls for a 2.0 mill increase in the non-homestead millage rate. This will raise the current non-homestead tax rate from its current rolled back rate of 16.9544 to 18.9544 mills. While the school district can only levy 18 mills on non-homestead property, the millage above 18 mills will protect the school district from future rollbacks.

Dr. Hill said that the non-homestead ballot proposal will affect the educational program of every West Bloomfield student. "In short, we can continue moving the West Bloomfield School District forward with no change in the current tax rate for primary homeowners."

Brickman believes that voter approval of the non-homestead ballot proposal will be a win-win for West Bloomfield's students and the West Bloomfield community. "I also believe a successful election will have a favorable effect on the positive reputation of the West Bloomfield community," she added.

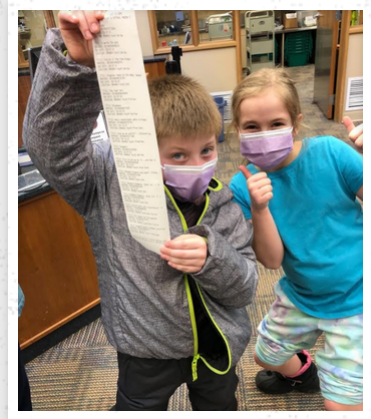
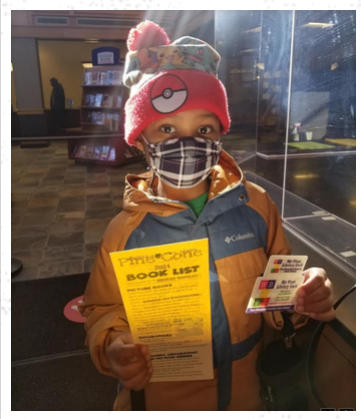
Dr. Hill said that the school district will be producing informational materials and making community presentations to explain the various components of the election proposals. "We want to make sure members of our community understand that all registered voters can vote on the proposal even though the non-homestead ballot proposal only applies to businesses and second homes. We will work diligently to address any questions members of the community may have before the vote which the Board of Education has scheduled for May 4."

For more information, please contact Kyle Anderson, assistant superintendent for business & operations at kyle.anderson@wbsd.org or (248) 865-6434.

100 BOOKS TO READ IN KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarteners are well on their way to reading the *100 Books to Read in Kindergarten*! In November, a folder was sent home from the WBTLTP that included the book list, a poster to hang up at home, and stickers to track the books read. Visit the WBTLTP to check out these special titles. Students can also access the 100 book titles from the Gretchko Book Bus or the virtual reading room available on the iCenter Canvas page. During iCenter classes, Mrs. Hammericks has been reading aloud some of the books including, *Stick & Stone*, *Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs*, *First Snow*, and *It's Tough to Lose Your Balloon*. Readers can check these books off of their posters!

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1msuTDA6HuAZkhcaSpEgp68tY0266UI8EKhjwRGc-0RM/edit?usp=sharing>



CHECK OUT THE FUN PINE CONE VIDEO

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1GAmx3ETeeXv9UsZCySNp1c8GbozKfTrOUYH4d-uac/edit#slide=id.gb76e6e4c39_0_6

PINE CONE

First and Second Grade readers are rock'n Pine Cone this year! The WBTPPL sponsors the Pine Cone program here in West Bloomfield and provides so many books each year for our classrooms! After the program, the Pine Cone titles are donated to our classroom teachers and added to their classroom libraries. The WBTPPL loves to see our readers at their locations to ensure the program is being utilized...so be sure to visit them to check out the Pine Cone titles. Students who do visit the library and provide a photograph or receipt of book checkout, will receive a prize from the Pine Cone Prize Cart! If you need any help at all learning how to navigate the Pine Cone Course in Canvas, please see this slideshow for all the information of this year's program!

PARENT AND CAREGIVER RESOURCES

TALKING TO KIDS ABOUT COVID-19

Talking to Kids about COVID-19 provides information and resources regarding how to explain COVID-19 to children of all ages (birth-18) in ways that children are able to understand.

[National Association of School Psychologists - Information for parents on how to talk to children about COVID-19](#)

[PBS - Tips for Talking to Young Children About COVID-19](#)

[Birth-3-Answering Young Children's Questions About COVID-19](#)

[NPR Comic for Kids that Teaches Them About COVID-19](#)

[COVIBOOK My Hero Is You](#) - Cute story for parents to read to young children about COVID-19

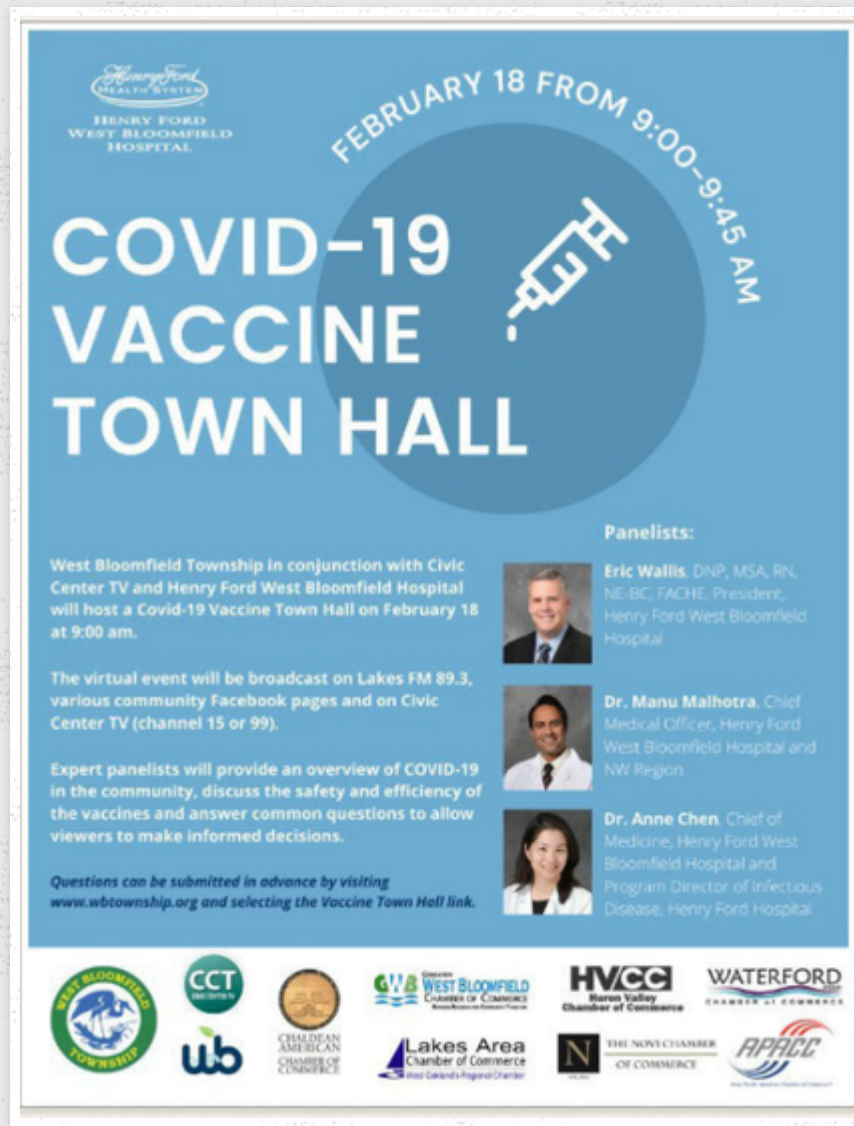
SAFETY TIPS

[Covid 19 Back to School Checklist: worksheet and embedded video link](#)
[Safety Tips for Returning to School During COVID-19](#)

[Mayo Clinic Q&A Podcast: Back to School Recommendations](#)

Parent-intended video, including appropriate handling and care of face coverings

Kids Health Coronavirus (COVID-19) - [Helping Kids Get Used to Masks \(for Parents\)](#)



The poster is for a COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall event. At the top left is the Henry Ford Health System logo and 'HENRY FORD WEST BLOOMFIELD HOSPITAL'. A curved banner at the top right says 'FEBRUARY 18 FROM 9:00-9:45 AM'. The main title 'COVID-19 VACCINE TOWN HALL' is in large white letters on a blue background, with a syringe icon. Below the title, text states: 'West Bloomfield Township in conjunction with Civic Center TV and Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital will host a Covid-19 Vaccine Town Hall on February 18 at 9:00 am.' It continues: 'The virtual event will be broadcast on Lakes FM 89.3, various community Facebook pages and on Civic Center TV (channel 15 or 99). Expert panelists will provide an overview of COVID-19 in the community, discuss the safety and efficiency of the vaccines and answer common questions to allow viewers to make informed decisions.' A link for questions is provided: 'Questions can be submitted in advance by visiting www.wbtownship.org and selecting the Vaccine Town Hall link.' On the right, three panelists are listed with their photos: Eric Wallis, DNP, MSA, RN, NE-BC, FACHE, President, Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital; Dr. Manu Malhotra, Chief Medical Officer, Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital and NW Region; and Dr. Anne Chen, Chief of Medicine, Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital and Program Director of Infectious Disease, Henry Ford Hospital. The bottom of the poster features a row of logos for various community organizations: West Bloomfield Township, CCT, UB, Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, HVCC, Waterford Chamber of Commerce, and others.

BOXTOP UPDATE

Please send in any box tops you may have with your child in a ziplock bag labeled with their name and their teacher's name. The deadline is Thursday, February 18th, 2021. There is also an app you can download if you would like to submit electronically. For more

information on that you can visit www.boxtops4education.com We will be collecting these throughout the year so please keep saving! Any questions please email Nicole at niclubaway@gmail.com

MARCO'S PIZZA DAY COMING

The **class with the most participation** in our next Marco's Pizza Day will receive a special visit from Mrs. Drummond and a **special reward**. So, mark your calendar for **Wednesday, February 24th**. Join the pizza parade for Gretchko! Gretchko will receive a percentage of sales for each item purchased by Gretchko parents on the 24th.

HUBBARD'S HEALTHY HINTS

Physical Education is a crucial part of a child's social, emotional, and physical development. They learn motor skills that assist in their academic development! Did you know a child's ability to skip can positively impact their reading proficiency? Skipping is a rhythmic activity, so is reading. The more proficient they are in skipping it allows for them to be more proficient in reading! Make sure your child is attending physical education each week to be a well rounded student :) Here is a great [article](#) on the benefits of physical education and how as a parent you can help build your child's foundational locomotor and non locomotor sk

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

If you have a **resident** student that will be attending kindergarten next year, our district has requested that you **register your child by February 17th**. Please go to the West Bloomfield School District website (wbsd.org) and enter through enrollment to find the Gateway registration program.

If you have a **SOC (school of choice)** student to enter kindergarten **you must first apply for SOC lottery to attend WB schools**. Please remember if you have a SOC student that currently attends WB schools any and **all new siblings wishing to enter WB schools still need apply for SOC acceptance**.

WB school of choice application window will close on February 2nd. Go to wbsd.org to apply.

New kindergarten students must be 5 on or before September 1st, 2021 or have a parent signed waiver on file and be 5 on or before December 1, 2021.



LEGO LEAGUE

Community Education


CHESS WIZARDS
Strategies for Life

Chess Class Has Moved Online!

Same exciting curriculum, now available online

Have Fun!





WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT
PORTRAIT of a GRADUATE

Sample Class Structure

15 minutes before class:	
Login, homework review	⌚ 10 Min
1 hour class:	
Concept of the day	⌚ 10 Min
Reinforcing puzzles	⌚ 10 Min
Game play, with instructor	⌚ 20 Min
Variation games and fun activities	⌚ 15 Min
Assign and explain homework	⌚ 5 Min

1 Hour 64 Squares Infinite Possibilities

Pick classes that match your child's interest and skill level, and our amazing Chess Wizards staff will take care of the rest.*

Group classes (up to 6 children), private lessons, and themed classes are just a few examples of the great experiences our online classes have to offer.

*You still have to show up online at scheduled time and place, of course!

5% off

For West Bloomfield Schools
Apply **SP500** code at check out

Code valid until June 1, 2021

Sign Up Today!

Call Us:
1-866-949-4386

Visit Our Website:
chesswizards.jumbula.com

Mail Us:
office@chesswizards.com

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Attention 1st, 2nd & 3rd Grade Parents:

FIRST Lego League Explore (previously *FIRST Lego League Junior*) is the perfect opportunity for our youngest coders to launch their experience within the WBSD FIRST Robotics Program. All skill levels welcome!

This season, we're stepping into the world of sports, play, and fitness – moving, collaborating, competing, and celebrating. In PLAYMAKERS, FIRST LEGO League Explore students will discover a variety of activities in different kinds of play spaces and how we can ensure that our games and activities are fun and accessible for everyone involved.

FLL Explore will be a **"Virtual"** Learning Experience. Participants will be provided with a KIT of Lego materials to be used and then returned at the completion of the 8-week workshop. Teams are limited to 4 students per team and we will accept the first 20 applicants.

If you and your child are interested in participating, please RSVP to attend a **Parent Information Meeting via Zoom:**

Monday, February 8, 2021 from 6-6:45 p.m. [RSVP HERE](#)

Virtual meetings will be on Monday evenings from 6-7 p.m. March 1-April 26, 2021

Coaches needed to guide small teams.

If you cannot make the meeting and are interested, email andrea.frank@wbsd.org



BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS - WHERE ARE ALL THE BOOKS?

Still looking for overdue books! Please check to see if you have any books that belong at Gretchko. The I center as well as the classrooms are still looking for books that were loaned out while we were remote. Thank you very much for making the extra effort to check your homes for books that need to be back in circulation.

"Answering Why: Unleashing Passion, Purpose, and Performance in Younger Generations"



Wednesday, February 24, 2021 | 6:00-7:00 pm
Virtual Presentation plus Q&A

Zoom Meeting Link Meeting ID: 848 7826 2795 | Passcode: 277383

To submit questions during the presentation, please email PernaEvent@oakland.k12.mi.us

- 2 Join bestselling author and generational expert Mark C. Perna as he unveils the groundbreaking innovations and strategies for working with today's younger generations. You'll discover why the synergy of robust academic knowledge, technical competency, and professional skills is the single most important competitive advantage a young person can possess -- and how to help them achieve it.

Today's young people are often painted in a negative light, but they have incredible potential to change the world. Parents, educators, employers, and young people themselves will benefit from Mark's perspective on the amazing promise of millennials and Generation Z. A father to two successful millennials, Mark delivers key insights on today's younger generations, how to answer their all-important question why, and how to connect with them at a deeper level.

With clear action steps you can implement immediately both in your home and professional life, Mark's message will help you motivate young people, show them why education matters, and empower them to achieve at a higher level. Recharge your passion for making a difference and start motivating young people like never before!



Don't miss Mark's award-winning bestseller, *Answering Why!*

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

“My ah-ha moment was when I realized that I had been creating a mom-driven life for my son. I will be apologizing to him tonight and listening to and supporting his son driven life. Thank you!”

— Lynette Van Winkle, Parent

Good insight as a parent to move our children to the light at the end of the tunnel.

— Sheila Ann Dagerag, Parent

Fantastic delivery of an incredibly relevant topic. Who doesn't want to understand Gen Y better? The storytelling format made the entire presentation so much more interesting and relatable. I would say this was one of the best I've heard on this topic.

— Dana Zorn, Training & Development Specialist at Hille International

Absolutely amazing! I'm going to go home and have a different conversation with my daughter who told me she wants to be an astronomer. Thank you.

— Carlissa Kennedy, Parent

Dynamic and powerful! Inspiring educators like myself to change the way we can be game changers in our students' lives and get them where they need to be. Mahalo!

— Michael Sene, Instructor/Academy Lead at Waipahu High School

Not only was this useful to me as an educator, but it will serve as a tool to help me work with my 17 year old who is stuck and perplexed about her future. I now have a clear path to help her with goal setting and future planning.

— Wanda Coates, Parent and Principal at S. Christa McAuliffe Elementary



MARK C. PERNA
SPEAKER | AUTHOR | CEO

Speaker, author, and performance expert Mark C. Perna is a strong advocate for the incredible potential of today's young people. On 200+ TV, radio, and podcast shows, he's shared his powerful message of making a bigger difference. Every weekday, he hosts *The Perna Podcast*, an Alexa Flash Briefing show that opens the playbook for success across generations. Mark also contributes weekly at Forbes.com, where he covers the challenges and opportunities of today's new multigenerational workforce.

Mark CEO's his company *TFS Results*, a strategic communications and consulting firm at the forefront of the national paradigm shift in education and workforce development. He's spoken at Harvard University by special invitation and today delivers 70+ keynotes annually across North America. As the winner of eight national awards, his bestselling book, *Answering Why: Unleashing Passion, Purpose, and Performance in Younger Generations*, was written to help educators, employers, and parents understand the millennial and Z generations. Mark, the father of two successful millennials, resides in Cleveland, Ohio. Find out more at MarkCerna.com.

mark-perna.com

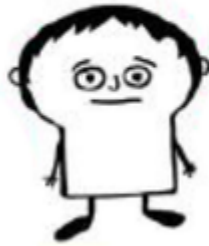


TFSResults.com

2019-20 YEARBOOKS

We still have several yearbooks available from the last school year (2019-20). If you are in need of one, please call the office at 248-865-6570.

Fun with Feelings and Mrs. DeSana

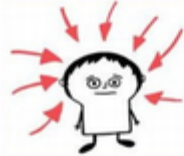


Students are learning about how to take a "Meta-Moment" from me,

Help your child with the first 3 steps by recognizing and asking...



1.



Something happens!

- What happened?
- How did it happen?
- Who else was involved?

2.



Sense!

- What sensations do you have?
- What are you thinking?

3.

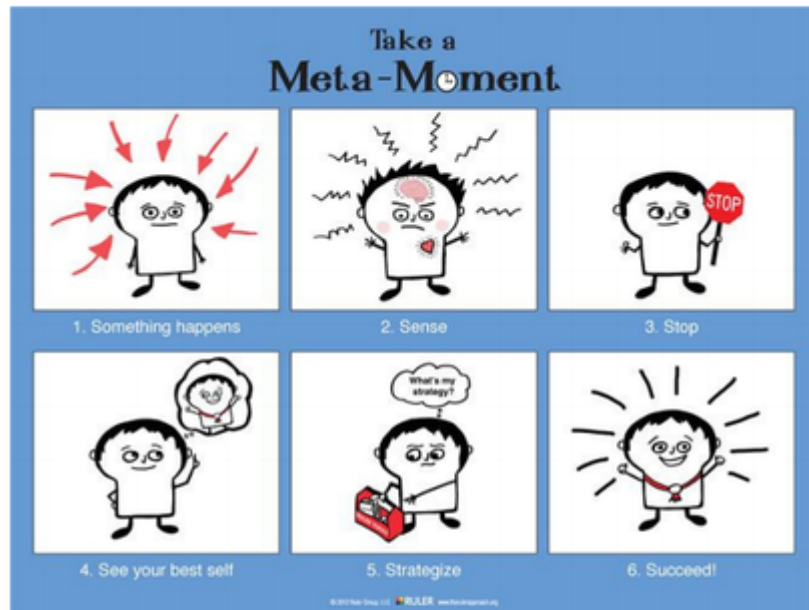


Stop!

- Take 3-5 deep breaths

↓ Keep scrolling to see all of the steps students will learn about! ↓

Fun with Feelings and Mrs. DeSana



Next up: Step 4 - See your best self!

Stay tuned to learn about ways to help your child see his/her best self!



Contact Lindsey DeSana, School Social Worker, for more information

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please review the calendar for the next few weeks of school

February 8-12 -Hybrid learning model all week (A,B)

February 15 - 16 - **NO SCHOOL** - Mid-Winter Break

February 17 - Wednesday - Remote learning

February 18 - 19 - Hybrid learning model - Cohort A, B

February 22 - 23 - Hybrid learning model - Cohort A, B

February 24 - Wednesday - Remote Learning - Marco's Pizza Day

February 25-26 - Hybrid learning model - Cohort A,B

We will continue hybrid learning model until further notice.

March 29 - April 2 - Spring Break

STUDENT SAFETY IN THE CAR LOOP

Student safety is a primary concern at Gretchko. We have developed several protocols to protect students throughout the building, as well as while they are entering and leaving the building. It is imperative that we are able to count on the parents and other adults follow safety guidelines. We have been receiving complaints from parents that are concerned about vehicle drivers jumping the line during the drop off and pick up times. Drivers in the cars are not waiting for their turn, and putting student safety in jeopardy. Please be patient, wait your turn and understand all parents want to move on just as much as you do. **Stay in line, and please do not pass the cars ahead of you.**

ADDITIONAL EVENING SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AVAILABLE

In an effort to provide students who may need it with extra support, we have begun offering evening tutoring support via Zoom on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Parents and/or students can sign up for 30 minute sessions to get extra help in most core subject areas K-12. This flyer and link to sign up have gone out in the weekly newsletter on Fridays, but if you have any students you think could benefit, please direct them to this flyer, which has the link to schedule a session: <https://create.piktochart.com/output/51242977-wb-sas-flyer>

WBSD SMS TEXT ALERTS - SIGN UP TODAY!

As you may already know, our district utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more. This resource is on top of the emails and phone messages you already receive from SchoolMessenger.

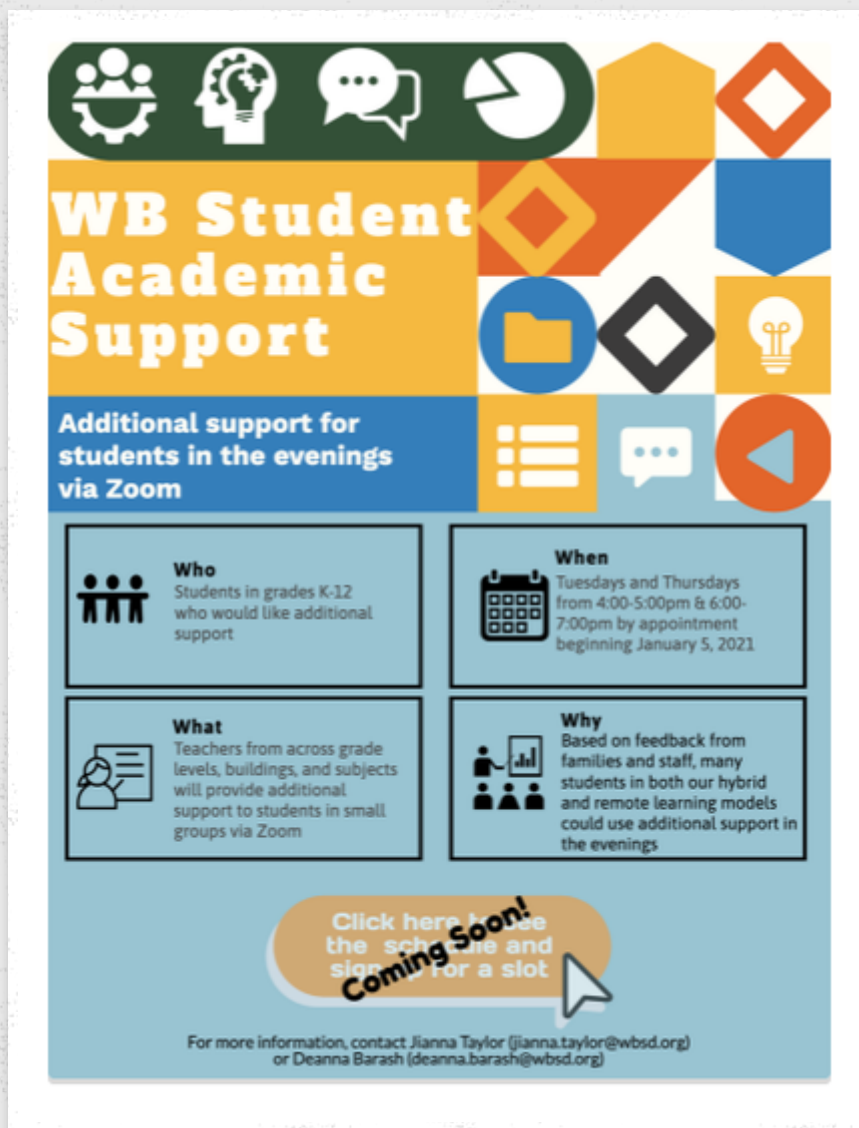
You can participate in this service just by sending a text message of **"Y"** or **"Yes"** to our district's short code number, **67587**.

You can also opt-out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with **"Stop"**.

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.





WBSD POWERSCHOOL CONNECTION HELP

If you are having difficulty with powerschool contact Sylvia McCoy at sylvia.mccoy@wbsd.org



WB Student Academic Support

Additional support for students in the evenings via Zoom

Who  Students in grades K-12 who would like additional support	When  Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00-5:00pm & 6:00-7:00pm by appointment beginning January 5, 2021
What  Teachers from across grade levels, buildings, and subjects will provide additional support to students in small groups via Zoom	Why  Based on feedback from families and staff, many students in both our hybrid and remote learning models could use additional support in the evenings

Click here to see the schedule and sign up for a slot
Coming Soon!

For more information, contact Jianna Taylor (jianna.taylor@wbsd.org) or Deanna Barash (deanna.barash@wbsd.org)

ZOOM MEETING HELP GETTING IN

Parents if you are struggling to get your student onto zoom meetings, please make sure they follow these steps.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gx2jrtLw0d4Ns2Bv40YxdCyzHLoZfF1k2i2WHsbwp8/edit>

DO YOU NEED TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE

We are sharing some good resources below that may assist parents resolving common technology issues.

Help with Canvas: www.wbsd.org/academics/classroom-to-cloud/canvas or canvashelp@wbsd.org

Help with Chromebook: www.wbsd.org/departments/technology

Help with PowerSchool: www.wbsd.org/parents/powerschool

WBSD CHROMEBOOK ACCIDENT AND LOSS PROTECTION

Please click [HERE](#) for information on accident and loss protection for district issued Chromebooks. Please contact Allyson Dewar at allyson.dewar@oakland.k12.mi.us for more information or if you have questions.

GRETCHKO PTO

It's been awhile so as a reminder here are this year's PTO board members:

President: Jen Amato

Co-Vice President: Ashleigh Davis/Stephanie Reynolds

Treasurer: Vanity Koop

Recording Secretary: Heather Aldrich

Co-Corresponding Secretary: Ufuoma Kaplan /Erica Daenzer

