

GRETCHKO NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 26, 2021



PICTURE DAY NEXT FRIDAY, MARCH 5TH

Lifetouch is our photo company and they will be accepting pre-orders for next week's student photos. Please see the information below for pre-orders. All students will be photographed for identification purposes. We will also be sending home traditional order forms and will accept orders until our picture day.

School Name: Gretchko Elementary School

Picture Day Date: Friday, March 5

Picture Day ID: EVTZFBXWJ

RETURN TO LEARN UPDATE

During the Feb. 22 Board of Education meeting, the Board voted to continue our **Hybrid Model** of instruction for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. This decision marks a clear path forward for the remainder of the school year and provides consistency of instruction for both students and staff.

We truly appreciate your flexibility and continued support of our students. The health, safety and prosperity of our students, staff and families continues to our guiding principle in determining our path forward.

Planning is already underway for the fall and the 2021-22 school year. We intend to be back **full, in-person five days a week** by following any recommendations of local, state and national health experts.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Report cards for our next report card marking period will be available April 9th. Our Kindergarten through second grade Gretchko students continue to make substantial growth in all academic areas. I'd like to highlight the great curriculum our I center teacher, Mrs. Hammerick has put together for the students. March is Reading Month, so please check out the daily events calendar in this newsletter. Our students are thriving with the systematic, focused curriculum we are providing them on a daily basis.

DISTRICT PLANNING MAY 4TH BALLOT PROPOSAL - HEADLEE RESTORATION

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 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.

This proposal seeks restoration of the non-homestead tax rate that was approved by voters in 2014.

For more information, visit the www.wbsd.org/elections or contact the Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations, Kyle Anderson at elections@wbsd.org or (248) 865-6434.

Additional Resources/Links:

FAQ - Headlee Restoration [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Fact Card - Headlee Restoration [Fact Card](#)

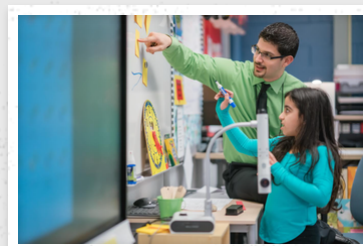
Ballot Language - Headlee Restoration [Ballot Language](#)


Video:

WBSD Headlee Restoration Webinar 2021 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZZS_v3WZRO&feature=emb_title

Button:





WBSD Headlee Restoration - May 4 Ballot Proposal Info: www.wbsd.org/elections





WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING MILLAGE FACTS

On May 4th, registered voters residing within the boundaries of the West Bloomfield School District (WBSD) will vote on a 2.0 mill, 4-year non-homestead operating millage proposal.

-  All registered voters can vote on this operating millage proposal. However, the millage only applies to "non-homesteads" (mainly businesses, rental properties, vacant land, and second homes).
-  If your primary residence is in the West Bloomfield School District, the operating millage proposal will not affect the property taxes on your home.
-  The operating millage proposal, if approved, will restore the non-homestead millage rate to the 18-mill limit last approved by West Bloomfield School District voters in 2014. This 18-mill non-homestead millage provides about \$8.2 million or roughly 12 percent of the school district's operating budget.
-  If the May 4th proposal is not approved, the school district will continue to lose more than \$691,000 in operating revenue every year.



No effect on primary residence property taxes - None!

More facts every voter should know -

- A non-homestead millage does not apply to homeowners whose primary residence is located in the West Bloomfield School District.
- If approved by voters, the May 4th operating millage proposal will allow the school district to levy the number of operating mills required to receive revenue at the full per pupil allowance permitted by the State of Michigan. The State of Michigan requires school districts to levy this millage to ensure full State Aid funding.
- The four-year ballot proposal calls for an increase of 2.0 mills, with 18 mills being the maximum allowable levy. This is a restoration of the 18 mills last approved by voters in 2014.
- Absentee ballots will be available after March 20th and can be cast through Election Day, May 4th. Any registered voter can get an absentee ballot application from the Clerk's Office where they reside or online at www.michigan.gov/vote. Voters who have COVID-related concerns or believe that going to the polls on Election Day will be inconvenient have the option of casting an absentee ballot.

Paid for by West Bloomfield School District • 5810 Commerce Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48324



Have questions or need more information?

- Go to www.wbsd.org/elections
- Call any West Bloomfield School District Principal
- Contact Assistant Superintendent Kyle Anderson at 248/865-6434 or by email at elections@wbsd.org



WEST BLOOMFIELD
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FILLS QUICKLY -
REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 11**



PRESCHOOL 2021-22

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 11TH!

**SECURE YOUR PLACEMENT NOW!
WEST BLOOMFIELD PRESCHOOL ACADEMY**

THE HIGHSOPE CURRICULUM
* APPROACHES TO LEARNING * SOCIAL
EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT * PHYSICAL
DEVELOPMENT * LANGUAGE
ARTS * SCIENCE * MATH *
* CREATIVE ARTS *



A variety of full-day,
half-day, and virtual
programs available

Locations include:
ACS, Gretchko, and
Sheiko.

State-funded GSRP
located at Scotch
and Sheiko

Call Collette Goestenkers at
248-865-6466 or email
collette.goestenkers@wbsd.org
for more information.

Half off registration fee
prior to May 3rd!

In-District \$60/ \$30

Out-of-District \$120/ \$60

SAFETY IN THE CAR LOOP

Student and staff safety is a primary concern at Gretchko. We have developed several protocols to protect everyone 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. **Please DO NOT EVER BACK UP while in the car line!** Also, we have been receiving complaints from parents that are concerned about drivers jumping the line during the drop off and pick up times. Some drivers 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.**

WEATHER RELATED REMINDER

Students getting out of cars and busses may walk directly on snow and or ice. Please dress your students for the weather. Remind students to have hats on, coats closed and gloves or mittens as needed.

LIFETOUGH SAFETY MEASURES

At Lifetouch, we have found a special purpose in capturing and preserving life-long memories through photography. With the many changes in the world this year, we are reminded, now more than ever, of the importance of capturing important moments and sharing photography with our loved ones.

This fall, Lifetouch is taking extra steps to keep your students and staff safe while capturing the time-honored tradition of school photography. Lifetouch is leading the photography industry in providing comprehensive safety protocols. These protocols follow the guidelines or recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards related to COVID-19.

Our new safety protocols include:

- **Safety Training** Lifetouch employees are required to complete enhanced safety and cleaning protocol training.
- **Social Distancing** Employees will follow new posing and social distancing requirements to ensure a safe and comfortable picture day.
- **Electronic Check-in** To limit interactions and improve efficiency, students will not carry a name card to the camera.
- **Enhanced Cleaning** Photographers will have a sanitization kit to clean camera stations and equipment.
- **Face Masks** Photographers are required to wear face masks during the entire photography session. We recommend face coverings for students and staff being photographed. During their individual session, they will be advised to remove their face covering to capture their image. Face coverings are **required** for parent volunteers.
- **Customized Plan** Most importantly, we'll work with you to establish a plan that fits your needs.

While Picture Day may look different this year, as a trusted partner, our goal remains the same; to ensure your school receives this essential photography service and families can continue to enjoy life's memories. At Lifetouch, we have found a special purpose in capturing and preserving life-long memories through photography. With the many changes in the world this year, we are reminded, now more than ever, of the importance of capturing important moments and sharing photography with our loved ones.

KIDS KLUB/CLOUD CARE

Please make your student lunch order a priority. We need to be aware that your student needs a lunch so we can have it ready for lunchtime.

Students go out for recess during the Kids Klub time and should be dressed for the weather. Please mark your students' hats, coats, gloves, boots, scarves with their names. Many students have the same items and we are unable to determine what belongs to each child.

Also, please check your child's cloud care folder preferably daily. That is our means of communication with you as well as any homework we may not have had time to complete.



PINE CONE BOOKS AVAILABLE THROUGH EBOOKS IN SORA.

Pine Cone readers can check out Pine Cone books from our new ONLINE LIBRARY called SORA! Readers learned how to borrow ebooks from Sora this week in iCenter Zoom. Watch this tutorial video to review how to check out Pine Cone ebooks in Sora. Please be sure to return your ebook right after you read it. There are only 2 copies of each ebook available and if a copy is checked out to your student, other students will not be able to access that ebook until you return it. Students should only check out an ebook from Sora if they intend to read it right away. Pine Cone ebooks can be checked out for up to a week if reading chapter books. Keep up the great Pine Cone reading!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SJ9VyP1eIntXz2lIbXtrlqkpeID8wmsE/view?usp=sharing>

WBSD MARCH IS Reading Month 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Hats Off to Reading! Hats off to your favorite author! Wear a hat and bring a book to share by your favorite author!	2 Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! Bring your favorite Dr. Seuss book to school.	3 TEAM WB READ-A-THON! The WB iCenters are hosting an all day Read-A-Thon. Listen to "Mystery Readers" share their favorite books via ZOOM.	4 Super Heros Read, Too! Will you dress as Batman, Superman, or a teacher? Read a book about a real-life hero or your favorite superhero.	5 School Spirit Day! Wear your school spirit gear! Tweet a picture with your favorite book! Which school has the most spirit!
8 Reach Out and Read! Reach out by phone and call someone to share what you are reading! OR write a letter/email to someone	9 Read A Shirt Day! Wear a shirt with words on it for others to read...or wear your favorite <i>Graphic Shirt</i> and enjoy a <i>Graphic Novel</i> !	10 Camp Out! Make a blanket tent or fort and listen to today's story. Use a flashlight to read in your tent.	11 JK Day! Watch an episode of Draw with JJK! Bring your drawing to school tomorrow to share with your teacher.	12 Character Day! Dress up as your favorite Book Character and Tweet a pic for our Virtual Character Parade!
15 Read a Crazy Good Book! Fox in Socks Day! Wear fun, silly, colorful or mismatched socks!	16 Readers are Great Leaders! Dress for the future job you hope to have and read a book about a career!	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day! Dress in green today and research how to make a leprechaun trap (with the permission of an adult).	18 Read Your Way to Disney World! Wear any Disney gear and bring a <i>Fairy Tale</i> to share today.	19 Read Your Way to College! Reading will take you to great places. Wear your favorite college gear!
22 Reading Jogs The Mind! Wear your sports/exercise gear and read a book about sports or staying healthy! Can you tweet a picture of yourself reading while being active?	23 NO TV Tuesday! What a great day to snuggle up and read or play your favorite board game!	24 Wacky Wednesday! Listen to the book <i>Wacky Wednesday</i> . Wear your clothes in a wacky way! Recommend a book.	25 We Love Reading Day! Bring a book to school you LOVE and would recommend to your friends.	26 Cozy Up with a Good Book! Wear your pajamas to school and bring a small stuffed animal.

Use hashtag #wbsdREADS to tweet!

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please review the March calendar

MARCH IS READING MONTH-join the fun - see calendar below

March 5 - Picture Day at Gretchko

March 14 - Daylight savings time

March 29 - April 2 - Spring Break

March 31- MARCO'S Pizza Night- percentage of sales donated to Gretchko

April 9 - Report cards are posted today

PARENT AND CAREGIVER RECOURCES

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 \(for Parents\)](#)

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



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



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.

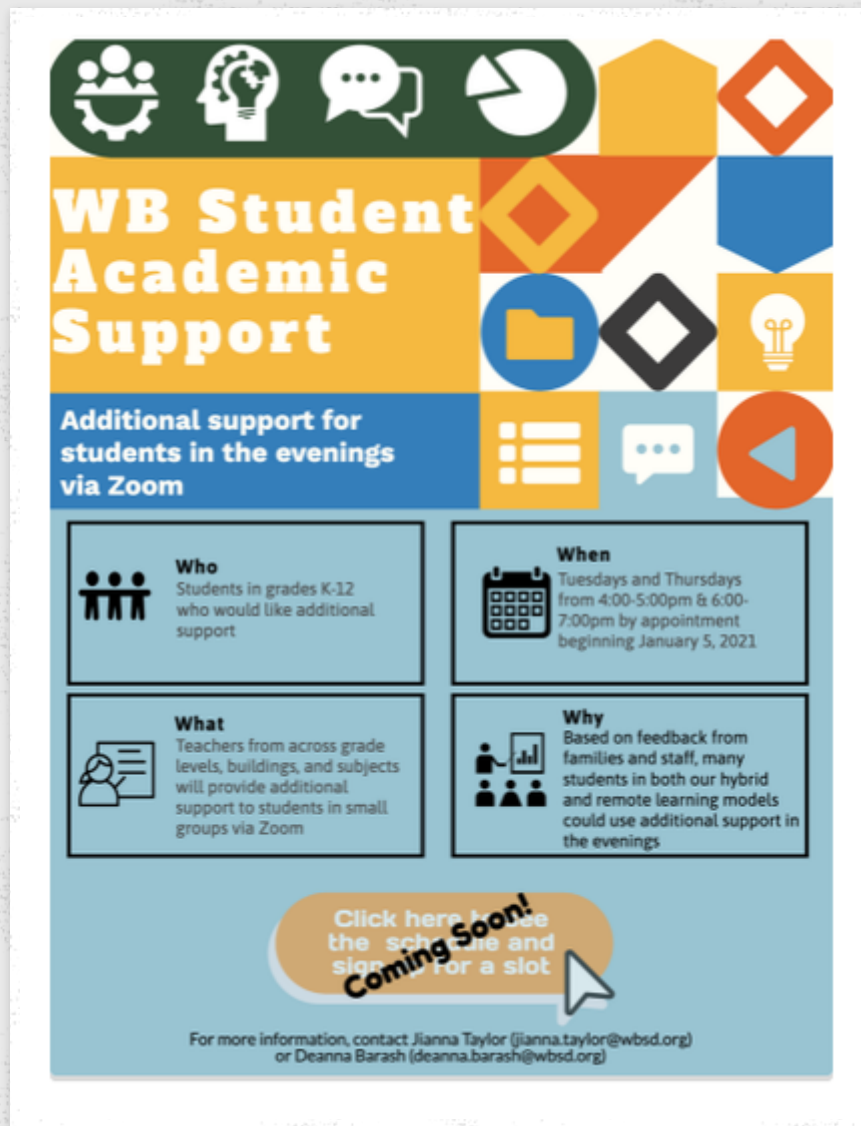
You can participate in this service just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our district's short code number, **67587**.

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



The poster is titled "WB Student Academic Support" and features a grid of icons at the top: a group of people, a lightbulb, a speech bubble, a pie chart, a hexagon, and a diamond. Below the title, it states "Additional support for students in the evenings via Zoom". The poster is divided into four sections: "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), and "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). At the bottom, there is a call to action: "Click here to use the schedule and sign up for a slot" with a "Coming Soon!" banner and a mouse cursor icon. For more information, contact Jianna Taylor (jianna.taylor@wbsd.org) or Deanna Barash (deanna.barash@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 use 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