



TRAILBLAZER NEWS

September 2022

MARCUS WHITMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dear Trailblazer Families:

We are truly looking forward to working together with our families on preparing all of our students for an amazing future. Our mission as a school is to ensure College and Career Readiness for all our students. We look forward to partnering with our students and our families as each student begins to plan for and find their path for success. As they grow and learn here, we want our students to connect positively with each other, demonstrate and promote safety, display integrity, persevere through challenges, and achieve success.

We are focused as a school in providing students with social emotional support, and research-based instructional strategies and tools. We want all of our students to believe in themselves, and identify other caring Trailblazers that believe in them as well. We look forward to connecting and partnering with all of you this year to help each of our students develop and foster that belief.

Brian Carlson and Renee Murphy



TRAILBLAZER TRADITIONS

This year all students 6th-8th will start the day with their advisory teacher to participate in our first annual **Trailblazer Traditions**, our 8 day back to school kick off! The modified schedule would look similar to a Wednesday schedule with no late start. Students will report to their advisory teacher each day at 8:10 am September 7th-16th to participate in activities to build the culture and climate of Marcus Whitman. Students will learn, practice, and model building wide expectations and procedures as well as build relationships with their advisory classes. All students will have a new advisory teacher that is not necessarily in their content grade area. Your student will keep their advisory for 3 years. Students should check their schedule for their advisory teacher and find that classroom to ensure a great start their first day. Students are welcome to wear school colors the first day of school! Marcus Whitman staff are so excited for open house and our first day of school. This year will be the best one yet!



Student Drop Off and Pick Up

Do you drop off or pick up your student in your personal vehicle? If you do, read on for some helpful tips to keep things moving smoothly!

-Students arriving in personal vehicles are to be dropped off and picked up in the gravel parking lot on the north side of our campus.

-Stay to the right side of your lane except to pass. If you have already dropped off or picked up, you are welcome to drive around other waiting vehicles so long as you can safely do so. Please do not stop in the passing lanes.

-Pull all the way forward in your lane to the front cones before stopping. This helps us get more cars through quicker.

-Be mindful that this is a very active parking lot. Always watch for students crossing!

-Use your turn signal early to help our parking lot helpers know what you intend to do and they can help keep traffic flowing.

For more detailed instructions including a photo and video, check out the Family Support page on our website or click here: <https://sites.google.com/skschools.org/mwmsremote/parking-lot-instructions>

Do you have time to spare to help out in our parking lot? Ms. Ronda could use more volunteers to keep things moving quickly and safely. If you think you could volunteer, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Ruth Hodges, to get more information!

Ronda Hempler

District Security Officer

Marcus Whitman Middle School

MWMS Counseling Department

Meet Your Counselors:

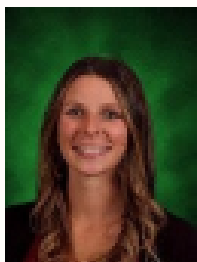


Zack Fogel

Students with last
names A-K

fogel@skschools.org

360-874-6164



Haley Mishko

Students with last
names L-Z

mishkoh@skschools.org

360-874-6166

Welcome!

Your counselors are excited to see students back in the building! Counselors support students academically, in career exploration, and with social/emotional development. Common ways we work with students and families include:

- Referrals to community resources, such as outside counseling or community support
- Peer conflicts
- Academic struggles
- Feeling anxious, depressed, or having trouble sleeping
- Help getting basic needs (hygiene items, clothing, backpacks, etc.)

Free & Reduced Lunch

This year students will need to apply for free & reduced lunch. Please fill out and return the form that will be sent home.

If your family could use food support, in addition to free & reduced lunch, please fill out the below form to sign them up for Backpack For Kids. BPFK provides students with a bag of easy to prepare meals/snacks on Fridays:
<https://forms.gle/xDpUjVdMRleUWhYs7>

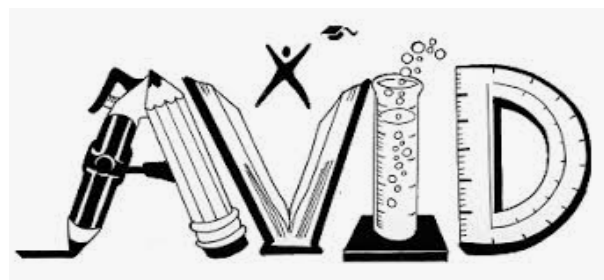
Locker Information

We will be issuing lockers this year. Below is a video showing how to open a combination lock.

<https://youtu.be/d9iX2bq4wIQ>



**Happy School Year
and
Welcome to Science!**



All three science levels provide skills in our AVID strategies of Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading.

6th, 7th, and 8th grade science classes will begin with lessons and assessments on Science Safety.

After Science Safety, 6th grade will begin covering the engineering standards with the PLTW module, Design and Modeling.

7th grade will begin lessons and activities on Atoms and Molecules and Magic of Electrons.

8th grade will begin lessons and activities for the cells Unit.

7th and 8th grade science classes are CTE, Career and Technical Education. These classes provide academic and technical skills for all students in preparation for high school pathways, and college and career readiness.

Wit & Wisdom

Wit & Wisdom is our English curriculum. It builds knowledge of key topics in history, science, and literature through the study of excellent texts. Wit & Wisdom is designed to challenge students in a positive and productive way, to build their knowledge of the world around them, and to hone the skills they need to be strong readers, critical thinkers, skilled writers, and excellent communicators. By reading and responding to stories and nonfiction texts, we will build knowledge of the following topics:

6th grade: Module 1: Resilience in the Great Depression

Core texts: *Bud, Not Buddy*, Christopher Paul Curtis
 Out of the Dust, Karen Hesse

Our classes will ask these questions:

What makes Bud a survivor?

What hardships did people face during the Great Depression?

How is Bud transformed by his journey?

What sustained people's spirits during the Great Depression?

How does hardship alter the characters' perspectives in *Out of the Dust*?

What makes the characters in *Out of the Dust* survivors?

How can enduring tremendous hardship contribute to personal transformation?

7th grade: Module 1: Identity in the Middle Ages

Core texts: *Castle Diary*, Richard Platt
 The Midwife's Apprentice, Karen Cushman
 The Canterbury Tales, Geoffrey Chaucer, retold by Geraldine McCaughrean

Our classes will ask these questions:

How does society influence identity and experience?

What do *The Canterbury Tales* reveal about identity and storytelling?

In *The Midwife's Apprentice*, how does the protagonist's identity change over time?

What elements make for an engaging historical narrative?

8th grade: Module 1: The Poetics of Storytelling

Core texts: *The Crossover*, Kwame Alexander

Our classes will ask these questions:

What shapes Josh Bell's sense of himself and his world?

How does form shape a story's meaning?

What is the role of expression in storytelling?

How do stories help us make sense of ourselves and the world?

What does it mean to be a storyteller?

Check out the MW math website!

What should my child do if they are absent from math class?

<https://sites.google.com/skschools.org/mw-math/home>

What are ways my student can get help in math this year?

<https://sites.google.com/skschools.org/mw-math/math-help>

What is new in math classes this month?

Find math updates for the month of September by clicking on the link for your student's grade level. If you have any questions about your student's progress, email or call their classroom teacher.

<https://sites.google.com/skschools.org/mw-math/6th-grade>

<https://sites.google.com/skschools.org/mw-math/7th-grade>

<https://sites.google.com/skschools.org/mw-math/8th-grade>

Emily Fogel

Learning Support Specialist - Math



Hello Families and Welcome to the 2022-2023 School Year:

On the next page you will find a copy of the contract each student will be given with their Chromebook the first three days of school. We are asking parents and students to read over the contract. We also encourage you to work with your child to make a plan for ensuring devices are charged and brought to school every day. Then please sign and return the contract the following school day. I would encourage you to save this newsletter for future reference.

If you have any questions, please email or call me.

Thank You,
Carol Chang
chang@skschools.org

360-874-6175

Student and Parent Contract

All Marcus Whitman students will be issued a Chromebook with the goals of:

- Increased opportunities for collaboration, communication and creativity
- Increased student engagement in a personalized learning environment
- Improved access to both teacher content and robust internet resources to foster acquisition of knowledge and skills

The Chromebook is first and foremost an educational device. It is essential that this agreement be followed to ensure the safe, efficient, and ethical operation of these devices.

SKSD retains sole right of possession of the Chromebook and related equipment (AC adapter, power cord and carrying case). There is no expectation of privacy in use or data stored on the district-owned device. The SKSD Acceptable Use policy is in effect.

Handling, Care & Use:

- You are always responsible for your own Chromebook.
- You should never share your personal login information, or let any other student use your Chromebook.
- Make sure you start each school day with a fully charged battery on your Chromebook.
- Handle the Chromebook with great care.
- Do not throw, slide, drop, toss, etc. the Chromebook.
- Do not carry or hold the Chromebook in the air by the screen/display.
- Do not close the device with any items resting on the keyboard.
- Do not store items in your case, it is meant to ONLY hold your device.
- Always place your Chromebook into its protective case before moving to your next class.
- Your Chromebook should be used for school purposes only.
- Do not access, store, create, consume, or share unauthorized or inappropriate content with your Chromebook.
- You should not eat or drink near your Chromebook.
- Heavy objects should never be placed or stacked on top of your Chromebook. This includes books, musical instruments, sports equipment, etc.
- Do not write on or decorate your Chromebook.
- Do not remove identification labels or tags placed on your Chromebook by district personnel.
- If your Chromebook is not working properly or is in need of repair, please notify Mrs. Chang immediately and bring it to the library at the first opportunity. Email: chang@skschools.org Phone: 360-874-6175

Damage caused by not following the handling, care and use directions, will result in the cost to repair/replace damaged items. Accidental damage has a reduced fine rate. For information about fines, please go to <https://sites.google.com/skschools.org/sksdcb/policies-responsibilities/chromebook-fine-schedule>.

By signing below, you are acknowledging you have read, discussed and understand the information above. If you have any questions, please email or call Mrs. Chang.

Volunteer Opportunities at Marcus Whitman Middle School

2022 – 2023 School Year

WELCOME BACK Parents and students!!



Your student may become more independent at the Middle School level, however, there are still volunteer opportunities such as:

Tutoring students/Assisting the teacher

Teacher Appreciation events

Band/Choir/Orchestra Assistant

Fieldtrip Chaperones

Help with Student Events

Look for specific volunteer opportunities in the MWMS Monthly Newsletter (via email) and parent emails.

Volunteer applications are available in the Main office and are required to be in place before volunteering. When you stop by, please bring current Drivers License for ID and proof of COVID vaccination. (Exemptions that have been granted will remain in place and new requests will be processed through SKSD Human Resources.) Mask use is by choice.

Point of contact at MWMS is Ruth Hodges at Munchbac@skschools.org (360) 874-6168 or

At the District level, Amy Miller at Millera@skschools.org (360) 874-7005.



We need you!

Help me bring a **Parent Group** to Marcus Whitman!

Many parents want to get involved but do not know how, we can change that! We can help you find something that will fit your time limitation's ! Our first step is seeing if there is enough interest to start a Parent/Teacher group. Help your students and their teachers by giving of your time and talents. We can make this year and the future of Marcus Whitman a bit brighter! Contact me Andi at andi6977@gmail.com.

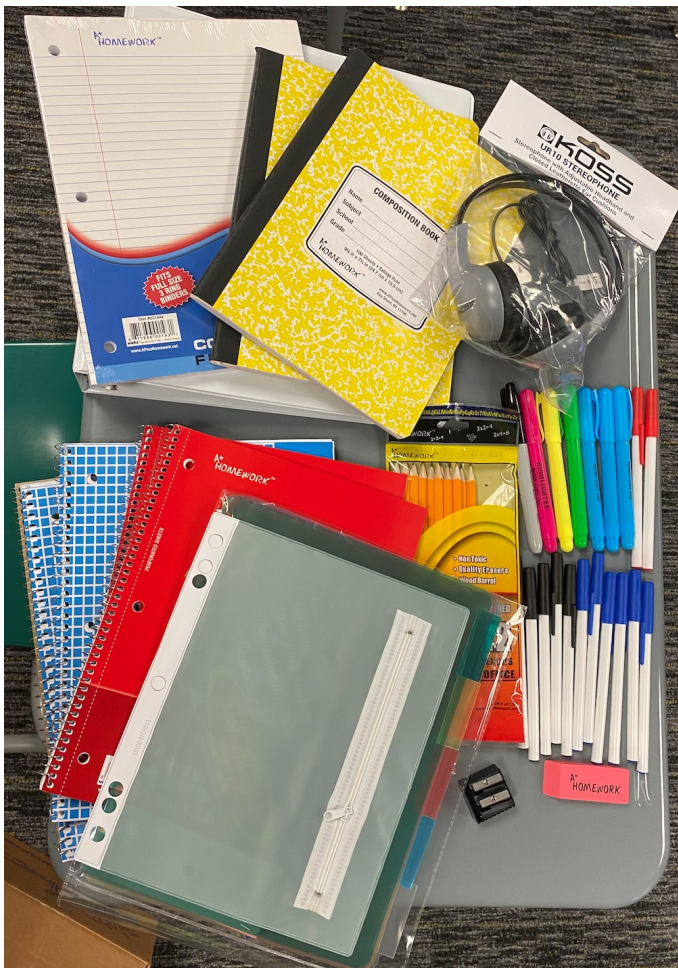
7TH HOUR

Does your student need a quiet place to study, complete homework, and/or get help with an assignment?

Encourage your student to come to 7th Hour every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:50-4pm in the library.

Our first session starts 9/27!

No transportation provided.



School Supplies

Students will be receiving a box of school supplies to get them started on the school year. Here is a picture of everything in the supply box. You may want to stock up on the consumable items for when they need replacement.

It is always a good idea to encourage your student to put their name on all of these items so that if they do set it down it can be returned to them.

Family Support Site

Check out the parent support site! This site will be a place you can get upcoming information and answers throughout the year.

<https://sites.google.com/skschools.org/mwmsremote/home>



Calling all Marcus Whitman Alumni!



Information needed

your name
your current location
years you attended MW
educational background
current and past career(s)
recent photo

Optional information

- favorite class at MW
- inspirational quote
- best memory of MW

Our mission at MW is to prepare students for college and careers in the 21st century and we need your help to do this! We love our community and want to create alumni posters to hang in our school so students can see what a Marcus Whitman student can become with perseverance and hard work.

Contact Emily Fogel at fogele@skschools.org if you are interested in participating.

Connected-Safety-Integrity-Perseverance-Achievement



The Chanime Club (Chess + Anime) meets Thursdays, 2:45-3:30 PM, at P6. Mr. O'Loughlin is the Advisor. The Chanime Club is open to all Marcus Whitman students who want to learn and play chess and/or want to draw Anime.

The Allies GSA Club is a group where students can connect, share their experiences, support one another. and be great allies for members of the Marcus LGBTQ+ community. Whether you are an LGBTQ+ student, a friend or a student with LGBTQ+ family members, you will find a home here. GSA meets every Thursday after school until 4pm for informal conversation and fun. Please see Mrs. Bush (email bush@skschools.org, or talk to your teacher) for a permission slip.

Yearbook Club will be starting in October....stay tuned..



MARCUS WHITMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL BASEBALL TRYOUTS

Please have all paper work and physicals completed prior to the first day of school.

The first day of school please bring all baseball equipment needed for tryouts to the locker room prior to the start of school. It will be locked up until needed for tryouts after school.

After school September 7th we will meet in the locker room to take roll and go over tryout information. Please be in locker room and ready by 3PM. Tryouts will go to 5:30 PM. Tryouts will be Wednesday (Sept 7th), Thursday (Sept 8th), and Friday (Sept 9th). We will make the final rosters after tryouts on Friday September 9th. We will let the players know where the lists will be posted.

Coach Kenyon

Varsity Baseball Game Schedule

All games start at 3:30 pm

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE
Tue 9-20	Hawkins	Hawkins
Thurs 9-22	Sedgwick	Sedgwick
Tue 9-27	Cedar	Marcus
Thurs 9-29	Mt. View	Mt. View
Tue 10-4	Curtis	Marcus
Thurs 10-6	Hawkins	Marcus
Tue 10-11	Sedgwick	Marcus
Thurs 10-13	Cedar	Cedar
Tue 10-18	Mt View	Marcus
Thurs 10-20	Curtis	Curtis

Varsity Fastpitch Game Schedule

All games start at 3:30 pm

Date	Opponent	Place
Tue 9-20	Hawkins	Hawkins
Thurs 9-22	Fairview	Marcus
Tue 9-27	Klahowya	Klahowya
Thurs 9-29	Central Kitsap	Marcus
Tue 10-4	Ridgetop	Ridgetop
Thurs 10-5	Curtis	Curtis
Tue 10-11	Sedgwick	Marcus
Thurs 10-13	Cedar	Cedar
Tue 10-18	Mt. View	Marcus

Track Meet Schedule

All games start at 3:15

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE
Wed 9-21	Sedgwick	SKHS
Thurs 9-29	Curtis	Curtis
Wed 10-5	Hawkins/Cedar	Cedar
Wed 10-12	Mt. View	SKHS
Tue 10-18	Futurist Meet	Hawkins
	Cedar, Curtis, Hawkins	
	Sedgwick, Mt. View	
Wed 10-29	WSMSL Championships	Poulsbo

September Family Dares Kindness through Conversation



Connected is one of the MW High Fives. Students are learning ways to connect with their peers and staff at MW this month. Practice this character pillar at home with our September Dares.

Quality Catch-Up

Invest 10 minutes at least one day a week right when everyone gets home to sit together and share about your day. No distractions, just full attention to what matters: each other.

Use intentional questions, like...

- What was a high and a low today?
- From 1-10, how was the day, and how will tomorrow be better?
- What's a snapshot from today you want to remember?
- If you had to describe your day as a type of weather, how would you describe it?
- Did you do something to help others today?

The Power of Thank You

As a family, think of someone that does something nice for you. Schedule a time to say thank you to them in person.

(name), I wanted to say thank you for _____. It means so much to us because_____.

Practicing gratitude as a family not only leaves the recipient feeling good, but helps the family feel accomplished for making someone's day better.

The Long Goodbye

As a family, challenge each other to say goodbye to other family members when they leave.

Goodbye (name)! Have a great day. I love you!

We can get super busy and distracted sometimes and let people leave without really taking time to let them know we care about them. Goodbyes are a great way to help everyone feel special when they leave.

Connected - Safety - Integrity - Perseverance - Achievement

The South Kitsap School District provides equal educational and employment opportunity without regard to race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation – including gender expression or identity, marital status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. Equal access to activities, facilities and program is provided to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. District procedure complies with all applicable state and federal laws.

The Title IX Officer and Section 504 Coordinator with the responsibility for monitoring, auditing and ensuring compliance with this policy are:

Compliance/ADA/Title IX Coordinator:
Will Sarett,
Executive Director of Human Resources
2689 Hoover Avenue SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366
360-874-7071
sarett@skschools.org

Section 504 Coordinator:
Paul Hulbert,
Principal
2689 Hoover Avenue SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366
360-443-3610,
hulbert@skschools.org