



# TRAILBLAZER NEWS

October 2023

## MARCUS WHITMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

### Impact Aid Federal Grant Program

We are requesting your assistance in identifying federally connected students for our Impact Aid federal grant program. The South Kitsap School District's operating budget is largely financed through state and local taxes; however, military bases and other federal properties are exempt from some local and state taxes. As a result, our school district does not receive all of the operating revenues that would normally be generated through the collection of these taxes.

The Impact Aid federal grant program provides funds to local school districts financially impacted by federal activities. Each year, South Kitsap School District receives approximately \$450,000 from this grant program. The majority of these funds become part of the district's general operating budget (funds from the special education portion of the grant are used directly for that program). These funds provide critical support to our students.

The survey to support our request for Impact Aid funds, **is being conducted electronically through our Skyward Student System**, and **will be open October 1, 2023** through December 1, 2023. Please take a moment and complete the survey. If you are not a federally connected family, there is an option to choose NO, please take the time to complete the survey, even if you are not connected. Participation is critical in the success of our survey.

### 2024 Annual Acknowledgement

### 2024 Annual Attendance Letter

### 2024 Annual Student Housing Questionnaire

We want to thank those who have completed the above annual forms on your student's skyward account. We still have just over 300 that still need to take care of this task. Please take a few minutes to complete these forms. Thank you.

**Pro Tip** - to avoid getting additional e-mails urging you to fill out these forms just log on to Skyward and take care of these Annual forms.



## 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>



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

## Tutoring students

## Assisting the teacher

Band/Choir/Orchestra Assistant

## Help with Student Events

## Fieldtrip Chaperones

## Teacher Appreciation events

**Volunteer applications are available in the Main office and are required to be in place before volunteering. Applications are in place for 2 years. When you stop by, please bring current Drivers License for ID.**

# OCTOBER FAMILY DARES

Each dare this month provides students and families with more opportunities to practice our High Fives; Connected and Safety. Pick at least one for this month to connect as a family and have intentional conversations at home about these character pillars.



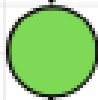
**Connected:** Plan a fall hike to do as a family! Look up hikes near you on [www.wta.org](http://www.wta.org). If you are unable to go on a hike have family members share their favorite place to visit in the fall and why.



**Connected:** As a family, share your favorite Halloween costume. You could create a family costume with a theme this year!



**Connected:** Plan, shop, and cook a new recipe together as a family. Share your recipe with another family, neighbor, and/or friend.



**Safety:** Register your family for a CPR course and take the class together. Check out [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) for local class details.



**Safety:** Students at MW are learning and practicing the routines for emergency drills. Sit down with your family and make or review your plan for if there was a fire, earthquake, or other disaster. Check out [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) - How to prepare for emergencies.

**CONNECTED - SAFETY - INTEGRITY - PERSEVERANCE - ACHIEVEMENT**

# What Should I Teach My Child About Safe Online Behavior?

As soon as your kids start going online, it's important to explain your expectations for their behavior. With some guidance from you, they can enjoy their time online and mostly avoid things like cyberbullying and inappropriate content. Here are some basics to share with your child:

**Communicate with care.** Use the right language for your audience. You might write or speak differently to a teacher, compared with a friend.

**Keep private things private.** Don't share private information, including passwords, your home address, date of birth, your location, or revealing photos.

**Respect others and avoid drama.** Be courteous and practice disagreeing politely. Try not to interact with trolls or share gossip.

**Don't lie, steal, or cheat.** Don't try to deceive others. Remember to give credit where credit is due. And, although it's easy to copy others' work, download things without permission, or cheat in online games, don't do it.

**Be an "upstander."** If someone you know is being bullied, find a way to show your support. If you feel safe confronting the one doing the bullying, you should. If not, a private message to the target of the bullying can be enough to help someone through a tough time. Speaking up against hate speech is important, too.

**Report misbehavior.** The internet is a giant community, and you can help it be a nicer place.

**Follow your family's rules.** If your parent or caregiver tells you to avoid certain websites or to stop texting after a certain time, do your best to respect their wishes. The more you act responsibly, the more privileges you'll get.

**Think before you post, text, or share.** Consider how you and others might feel after you've posted something. It's not always easy to take back what you've said online, and your online behavior can create a lasting footprint.

**Check in with your feelings.** Some online experiences can have a negative effect on our mental and emotional well-being. If you ever feel uncomfortable, worried, sad, or anxious, try taking a break and reach out to a friend or adult for help.

Source: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/articles/what-should-i-teach-my-child-about-safe-online-behavior>

Check out the MW math website!

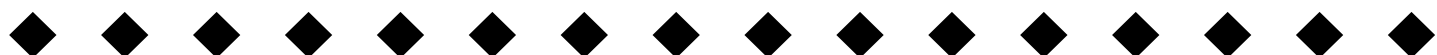
<https://sites.google.com/skschools.org/mw-math/home>

You can access the Marcus Whitman Math website by clicking this link or going to the Marcus Whitman website. Click the **quick links** to find the link **Math at MW**.

You can find online math resources, family supports, and a structure of what to do if your student is absent from their math class. If you have any questions about how to support your student in math this year, please contact your student's teacher.

Emily Fogel

Learning Support Specialist - Math



## 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>



# MWMS Counseling Department

Your MWMS  
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

## WHAT DO MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELORS DO?

Counselors support students with their social, emotional, career, and academic development. Your student may see us giving a social/emotional classroom lesson, running a small group, or counseling one on one. We also support families by connecting them to community resources.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

Could your family benefit from extra food support? If so, please fill out the below form to sign them up for the Backpack For Kids program. Please return the form to the counseling department.

BPFK sends students home with a bag of easy to prepare meals/snacks every Friday! Your student can also pick up a physical form from their counselor.



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# TRUNK OR TREAT

HOSTED BY MWPTO

CAST YOUR SPELL ON  
THE BEST DRESSED TRUNK!

4.30PM TO 5.30PM  
IN TEACHER PARKING LOT

WANT TO DRESS-UP YOUR  
TRUNK? CONTACT HOLLY:  
MWHITMANPTO@GMAIL.COM

BEST-DRESSED TRUNK  
WINS GIFT BASKET!!!

## Greetings Trailblazers!!

We have new October Spirit Days. But here's a twist- - One of your teachers will be counting how many people participated in the Spirit Day. The classes that have the most people participating will get a reward. So, get in some school spirit during the month of October!!

Our Spirit days for October are:

- Friday Oct. 13: Halloween Colors- Wear different shades of Orange Black or Purple
- Friday Oct. 20: Soccer Mom vs. BBQ Dad- Choose a side to dress up as
- Tuesday Oct. 31: Happy Halloween- Dress in **appropriate** Halloween attire! Costumes are permitted, but please don't wear any face covering or hood that may potentially hide your identity. Please make sure that all costumes are appropriate. No inflatables!!

### SAVE THE DATE!!

Our next **social** will be November 3rd after school from 3-4 pm. We hope to see you there!



Our “**Fall into Reading**” Family Literacy Night was a successful event. Your presence and enthusiasm made the evening truly special, and we hope you had as much fun as we did!

Here are some of the highlights from our event:

1. Bookmark Art: The artistic talents displayed while creating bookmarks were impressive. We hope you're using them to mark your favorite pages as you dive into new books.
2. Games: We hope you enjoyed the interactive games and activities. Learning through play is a fantastic way to engage with literacy.
3. Online Reading Resources: We're delighted to have shared valuable online reading resources with you. Remember, these are available year-round to support your reading journey.

Dinner: We hope you enjoyed the pizza and cookies provided. It's wonderful to share a meal while discussing the joys of reading.



After the event, we held three separate drawings, and three different families that attended the event emerged as lucky winners. The prizes were:

- A gift bag from Grocery Outlet
- A gift certificate for Safeway

A gift certificate for a Spiro's pizza

Congratulations to the winning families!

We appreciate your participation and support in fostering a love for reading within our community. Family Literacy Night wouldn't have been the same without you

If you have feedback or suggestions for future events, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're always looking for ways to improve and cater to your interests.

Once again, thank you for joining us for "Fall into Reading." We look forward to seeing you at our future family events!



The Allies GSA Club: Are you looking for a safe and supportive place to connect and socialize with fellow LGBTQ+ peers and allies? If so, Allies GSA club is for you! Students in the club work together to provide inclusive community experiences for all at Marcus Whitman! Allies GSA club meets Thursdays from 2:50-3:50 in room 203. Permission slip can be found at the main office.

Weight Lifting Club will be meeting Tuesday and Thursday in the Weight Room. Time is from 2:50 pm to 3:50. This club is for students interested in learning how to lift weights for personal fitness or maybe getting ready for a sport. Permission slips are at the main office. Advisors Mr. Zappey and Mr. Dan

STEM Club will begin Thursday, Oct 6th and will continue every other Thursday. STEM Club will meet in Room 112 (Woodshop) and go from 2:45—3:45. Permission slips are at the main office.

Yearbook Club: Any students interested in joining the Marcus Whitman Yearbook please stop by room 111 and see Mr. Lawton for an application.

## **Varsity Baseball Game Schedule**

**All games start at 3:30 pm**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>OPPONENT</b>	<b>PLACE</b>
Tue 10-10	Hawkins	Marcus
Wed 10-11	Cedar	Cedar
Fri 10-13	Mt. View	Marcus
Tue 10-17	Mt View	Mt. View
Thurs 10-19	Sedgwick	Marcus



## **Varsity Fastpitch Game Schedule**

**All games start at 3:30 pm**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Place</b>
Tue 10-10	Hawkins	Marcus
Thurs 10-12	Ridgetop	Marcus
Fri 10-13	Mt. View	Mt. View
Wed 10-18	Klahowya	Klahowya
Thur 10-19	Central Kitsap	Marcus



## **Track Meet Schedule**

**All games start at 3:15**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>OPPONENT</b>	<b>PLACE</b>
Tue 10-17	Futurist Meet Cedar, Curtis, Hawkins Sedgwick, Mt. View	Curtis
Tue 10-24	Championships	SKHS

# WINTER 1 SPORTS

## BOYS BASKETBALL

Tryouts will start Tuesday, November 1st. Be sure you have register on Final Forms and have a current sports physical. Any questions you can contact Coach Mackie.

## GIRLS SOCCER

Soccer will be starting November 1st. Be sure you have register on Final forms and have a current sports physical. All paperwork must be completed before the first day of practice.



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](mailto:sarett@skschools.org)

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

Gender Inclusivity Compliance Officer:  
Dr. Tom Edwards  
Assistant Superintendent for Student Achievement  
2689 Hoover Avenue SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366  
360-874-7003  
[edwards@skschools.org](mailto:edwards@skschools.org)