



TRAILBLAZER NEWS

October 2024

MARCUS WHITMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Impact Aid Federal Grant Program

Dear Parent and or Guardian:

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. 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, family access and will be open October 1, 2024. 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.

The information you provide will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. If you need additional information, please contact Landa Fuchs at (360) 874-7013 or email fuchs@skschools.org

Your assistance in the Impact Aid program survey is greatly appreciated by South Kitsap School District and our students. We thank you for your continued support!

Step by Step instruction can be found on the link below.

[Skyward Family Access Reference Guides](#)

2025 Annual Acknowledgement

We want to thank those who have completed the above annual forms on your student's skyward account. We still don't have 100% entry yet. 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 8TH, 2024
5:30-7:00PM**

**RSVP ON
PARENT SQUARE!**

Fall **INTO READING FAMILY NIGHT**

Dinner will be Provided!



 **GAMES**  **SORA DIGITAL BOOKS**  **READERS THEATER**

 **BOOKMARK ART**  **READ ALOUDS**

 **KITSAP REGIONAL LIBRARY**  **ONLINE READING RESOURCES**

 **HOW TO TALK TO YOUR TEENS ABOUT BOOKS**

October Spirit Days!

10/4: Sport attire

Wear your favorite
team gear!

10/11: Pink out!

Wear all pink!

10/18: Fall wear day

Wear anything fall!
Leaves, pumpkins, etc.

10/25: PJ Day

Wear your most
comfiest clothes!



Check out the MW math website!

Try this task together at home with your student. What mathematical habits did you use to help you process the task? Check out the Mathematical Habits of Mind and Interaction here! <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1G7oBOInu7jU6f8OaE8lou7YKiBcPbPzs/view?usp=sharing>

Try to come up with at least three unique ways to multiply 12 and 21. (Think: pictures, standard algorithm, breaking apart numbers, rounding/estimating, etc)

Check out the MW Math Website for more resources! <https://sites.google.com/skschools.org/mw-math/home>

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>



7TH HOUR
Calling all MW Students!

Do you need a quiet place to study, complete homework, and/or get help with an assignment?

Come to 7th Hour every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:50-4pm in the library.

No transportation provided.
Pack a snack to enjoy while you work.

COOL 😊



Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School: Pay Attention to Attendance

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a student's academic success.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day.
- Help your children maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and non-urgent related medical appointments during the school day.
- Keep your student healthy. If you are concerned about about a contagious illness, call your school or health care provider.
- If your children must stay home because they are sick, make sure they have asked teachers for resources and materials to make up for the missed learning time in the classroom.

Help your teen stay engaged

- Find out if your children feel engaged by their classes, and feel safe from bullies and other threats.
- Make sure your teens are not missing class because of challenges with behavioral issues or school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, contact the school and work with them to find a solution.
- Monitor your teen's academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors when necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage your child to join meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.
- Support your students if you notice signs of anxiety, and if needed, seek advice from your school or health provider

Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not adding up.
- Seek help from school staff, other parents, or community agencies if you need support.

Revised April 2024



Visit Attendance Works at www.attendanceworks.org for free downloadable resources and tools!

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We kindly remind you that it is your responsibility to inform the school if your child will be absent. For each day your student is not in attendance, you must notify the school and provide a reason for the absence within 24 hours. This communication is essential for ensuring accurate attendance records and ensuring your child's safety. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and accountable learning environment for all students. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office.

Sincerely,

Renee, Murphy MWMS Assistant Principal

Ways to communicate: phone: 360-874-6170, email: meddles@skschools.org: message through parent square

Are you planning a trip and will be missing school?

If you plan on missing school for a period of time and it is in the future, please send your student to school with a note at least two weeks in advance. In the note, please provide the dates the student will be gone. Your student will be given a slip to take to the teachers, who will sign off that they know your student will be absent and they will, if possible, send work with them.

Back Packs for Kids Program

This is a community funded initiative which provides local students in need with a pack of easy-to-prepare meals and snacks to support them over the weekend.

If this program would be helpful to your family, please complete and sign the form you can find in the link below. Your student's information will be kept confidential, and your student picks up their Pack on Fridays.

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:5c3ec3ca-05fc-4a2e-87d3-36f84eee7727>

Attention military families! We are starting to build our Veteran's Day slideshow and we are looking for submissions from you. If you have a family member who has served or is serving we would like to recognize them with a slide in our slideshow. To get your family member recognized please send the information to Mrs. Bates at bates@skschools.org. The due date is Sunday, October 20th. Please include the following in your request:

- o Name of service member
- o Branch of service
- o Student name(s) that are connected to at Marcus Whitman

Picture(s) of the service member



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

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



The Allies GSA Club: 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 member of a queer family, you will find a welcoming home here. GSA meets every Tuesday after school until . A permission slip signed by student and parent must be submitted before participation. You can get a permission slip from 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

Unified Club! Where Students Belong! This club is a space for students of all backgrounds to come together and feel like they have a voice and belong. Along with meeting new friends, games, snacks, and activities, that help students grow and build a sense of community with sports and activities. We meet every Wednesday from 2:50—3:50 pm.

STEM Club—TSA is the perfect club for middle school students who love to explore, build, and compete! In TSA, you learn hands-on skills in areas like robotics, engineering, and design, while also developing teamwork and leadership abilities. TSA meets Thursday in Room 112 (Woodshop) from 2:45—3:45. Permission slips are at the main office.

D & D Club - In this club, students will run and play weekly games of D&D. Experienced players and newbies are all welcome! Club will meet Mondays, 2:45—3:55.

POKEMON Club - If you love Pokemon, this is the club for you. We talk Pokemon, trade Pokemon and catch them all. Meet Wednesdays from 2:50—3:50. Be sure you have submitted your permission slip before you attend.

DRAMA TEAM - Be a part of the spring musical and other acting performances. We meet the 4th Tuesday of each month from 2:50—3:30 and more often during performance season.

Varsity Baseball Game Schedule

All games start at 3:30 pm

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE
Thu 10-3	Curtis	Marcus
Tue 10-8	Hawkin	Hawkins
Fri 10-11	Cedar	Marcus
Tue 10-15	Mt View	Marcus
Thur 10-17	Sedgwick	Sedgwick



Varsity Fastpitch Game Schedule

All games start at 3:30 pm

Date	Opponent	Place
Wed 10-2	Cedar	Marcus
Tue 10-8	Hawkins	Hawkins
Thur 10-10	Ridgetop	Ridgetop
Wed 10-16	Klahowya	Marcus
Thur 10-17	Central Kitsap	Central Kitsap



Track Meet Schedule

All games start at 3:30

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE
Tue 10-2	Fairview/Curtis	Curtis
Wed 10-9	Mt. View	Marcus
Wed 10-16	Kingston/Woodward	Woodward
Mon 10-21	Futurist Meet	Hawkins
Thur 10-24	Championships	Poulsbo

WINTER 1 SPORTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Tryouts will start Monday, October 28th. Be sure you have register on Final Forms and have a current sports physical. Games start Nov 13 and end Dec 18th Any questions you can contact Coach Mackie.

GIRLS SOCCER

Soccer will be starting Monday October 28th. Be sure you have register on Final forms and have a current sports physical. Games start Nov 13 and end Dec 16. All paperwork must be completed before the first day of practice.



Hello Parents!

Below (next 7 pages) is the information regarding the system available to help you monitor your child's activities on their school issued accounts. It includes information on how to sign up for a portal account, monitoring activity, and pausing internet access during non-school hours.

Parent Reports and Portal

Lightspeed Parent Reports are available to SKSD parents and guardians interested in knowing more about their child's activity on an SKSD device. Parents can [opt-in via Skyward](#) to receive reports of their child's internet usage over the last 7 days. Our internet content filtering service, Lightspeed, provides a summary that recaps when the web is being used, top sites visited, and more. This allows parents to see their child's school and home internet activity for the past seven days and helps ensure they are safe and focused on learning.

What is the Parent Report Email?

Parents who have [opted-in via Skyward](#) will receive a Parent Report email (on Sunday mornings) sharing statistics about their child's browsing activity for the previous 7 days while using an SK-issued Chromebook. Due to a limitation between Skyward and Lightspeed, only the primary household for the student will be able to opt-in to receive the reports. Below is a sample of the email report delivered to parents.

Weekly Parent Report

Skyward

Approved

116

Different hosts

Visited an average of

287

Pages each day

Daily

Pages per day

Sat	1120
Fri	537
Thu	223
Wed	0
Tue	0
Mon	0
Sun	0
Sat	788

Top 10


Visited hosts

skyward.com	307
sky.com	305
people.com	291
sky.com/news	150
sky.com/news/skyward	149
sky.com/news	70
sky.com/news/skyward	50
sky.com/news	48
sky.com/news	40
sky.com/news	40

Want more details?

Head over to the "View Details" view additional information

[View Details](#)

 Skyward Systems
Unleash the Power

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What's in the Parent Report?

The Parent Report shares statistics about your child's browsing activity weekly on Sundays.

The Parent Report includes:

- Daily pages visited for the last 7 days
- Top 10 visited hosts
- Average pages visited each day
- Total number of different hosts

Parent/guardians with multiple children enrolled in SKSD schools will receive separate reports for each child.

[Invite to Parent Portal](#)

What is the Parent Portal?


The Parent Report email contains an invitation to **Log In** or **Register** for the **Parent Portal**. Click the button at the end of the Parent Report email to create an account. Creating an account for the Parent Portal provides web activity insights, including visited websites.


Get Started with Parent Portal

Want more details?

Head over to the Lightspeed Parent Portal to view additional information.

Log In or Register




Unsubscribe

1501 One Care Drive | Building One, Suite 250 | Austin, TX 78745

The weekly Parent Report Email contains an invitation to Log In or Register for the Parent Portal.


Creating an account for the Parent Portal provides web activity insights, including visited websites. Click the button at the end of that email to create an account.

Create an Account

After clicking the **Log In** or **Register** button in the Parent Report email, select **Create Account**. Fill out the information and click **Create your account**. A verification email will be sent to the email address you provided. Click the verification link in the email to complete your registration.

Create an Account to access the Parent Portal

<https://south-kitsap.portal.relay.school>

 Lightspeed Systems®

Lightspeed Parent Portal™

[Log in](#) [Create Account](#)


Let's get you signed up!

[Create your account](#)

By clicking "Create your account" you agree to the Lightspeed Systems® [Terms & Conditions](#)

[Forgot your password?](#)

Support your student's learning with online activity reports



What does the Parent Portal Dashboard look like?

The dashboard summarizes the child's most recent browsing activity over the last 7 days, including times the sites were accessed. Click the date headers (Today, Yesterday, etc.) to expand that day's viewing history.

Parents and guardians with multiple children can select the child whose report information they would like to view within the Parent Portal.

Useful features within the Parent Portal Dashboard

Parent Pause: Parents can pause student Internet access during the time frames below. The Internet pause will be removed daily at 5:00 a.m.

- Mon. - Fri. 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.
- Sat. and Sun. 5:01 a.m. to 5:00 a.m.

The screenshot shows the 'Student Online Activity Report' interface. A red box at the top left contains the text 'Click to view browsing history of multiple children' pointing to a dropdown menu. A red box on the left side contains the text 'Click the date header to expand that day's viewing history' pointing to the 'Today' header. A red box on the right side contains the text 'Parent Pause' and 'Temporarily block web browsing during after school hours.' pointing to a toggle switch labeled 'Pause web browsing'. A red box at the bottom left contains the text '✓ = Allowed website', '✗ = Blocked website', and '00:00 AM/PM = Timestamp of website visit' pointing to the table entries. The table itself has columns for 'Website', 'Allowed/Blocked/Blocked', and 'Timestamp'. The 'Allowed' column contains checkmarks, and the 'Blocked' column contains X marks. The 'Timestamp' column shows times like 11:11 AM and 11:11 PM. The 'Website' column lists various URLs, including 'www.google.com' and 'www.wikipedia.org'.

Click to view browsing history of multiple children

Click the date header to expand that day's viewing history

Parent Pause
Temporarily block web browsing during after school hours.
Mon. - Fri. 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.
Sat. and Sun. 5:01 a.m. to 5:00 a.m.

✓ = Allowed website
✗ = Blocked website
00:00 AM/PM = Timestamp of website visit

How can I support my child with device use?

SKSD makes every effort to equip families with tools and information to ensure the safe use of SK-issued devices in the home. Filtering services provided in our schools - in compliance with minimum federal regulations for the protection of students - are extended to Chromebooks when they are used away from school. In addition to filtering services and tools like the Parent Report and Parent Portal, parent/guardian involvement is key for keeping students safe online.

Please visit the [SKSD 1:1 Chromebook Website](#) to learn about practices that support keeping students safe online and focused on learning.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I sign up for Parent Reports?

- Parents can opt-in to receive parent reports via Skyward. See the [LIGHTSPEED WEEKLY REPORT EMAIL OPT-IN](#).

I signed up for Parent Reports but have not received them yet. Why?

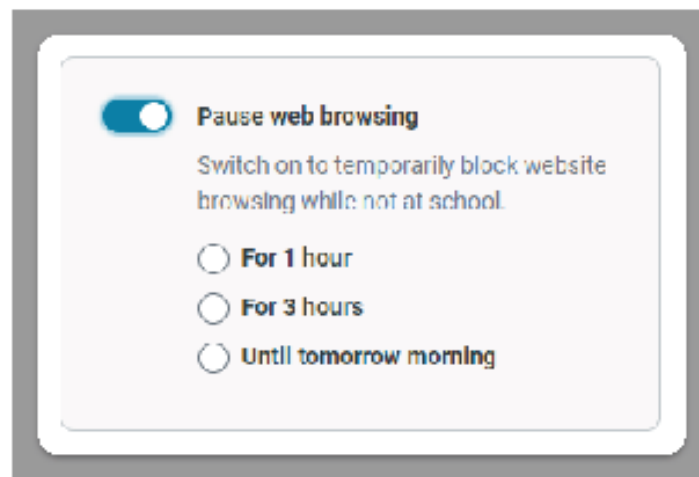
- Check your email's spam folder. Your email provider might have flagged Parent Reports as spam. Reports are sent from do_not_reply@lightspeedsystems.com email address on Sunday morning. If you don't see the email in your spam folder, try manually adding the do_not_reply@lightspeedsystems.com to your email allow or friend list.

Can I pause web browsing on my child's device while they are at school or at home during the school day?

- While your student is at school or home during the school day, they need to have filtered access to websites as part of their instructional day. Teachers work in conjunction with the web filter to guide student use during the school day.

Can I pause web browsing on my child's device outside of the school day?

- The **Parent Pause** feature has been enabled. Parents will be able to pause student Internet access during the time frames below. This is a daily setting currently. The Internet pause will be removed daily at 5:00 a.m.
 - Mon. - Fri. 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.
 - Sat. and Sun. 5:01 a.m. to 5:00 a.m.



☒ **Pause web browsing**

Switch on to temporarily block website browsing while not at school.

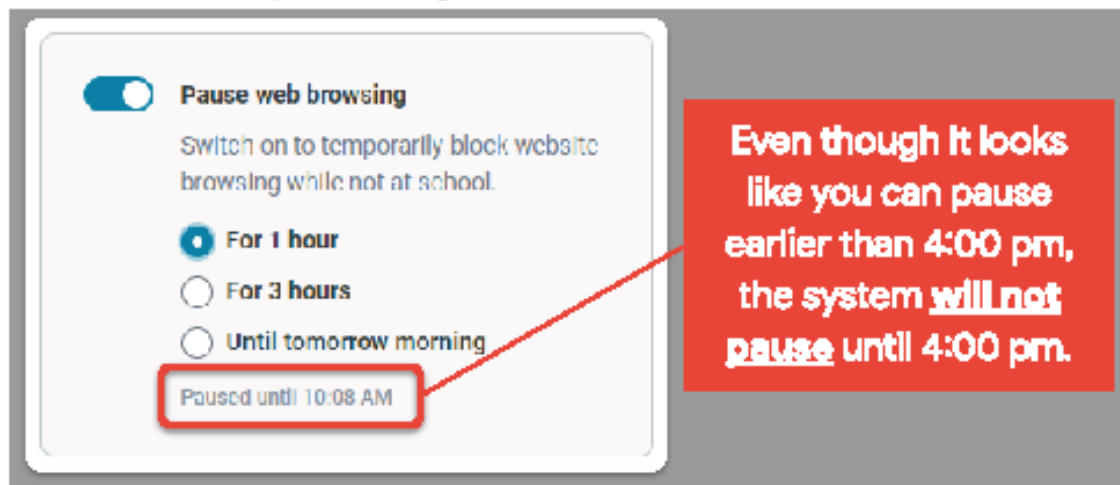
☐ For 1 hour

☐ For 3 hours

☐ Until tomorrow morning

- **Known issues:**

- 5/13/22 The pause appears to work outside of the hours listed above. Even though it looks like you can pause earlier than 4:00 pm, the system will not pause until 4:00 pm.
 - Lightspeed has identified this as a visual bug in the parent portal and has their development working on it.



☒ **Pause web browsing**

Switch on to temporarily block website browsing while not at school.

☒ For 1 hour

☐ For 3 hours

☐ Until tomorrow morning

Paused until 10:08 AM

Even though It looks like you can pause earlier than 4:00 pm, the system will not pause until 4:00 pm.

Can I schedule the Parent Portal to pause web browsing at a specific time?

- There are currently no options to allow parents to set up a recurring pause or to adjust the times for holidays that occur during the week. Lightspeed is constantly working to improve its software, and we hope this feature will be added in the future.

Can I block specific websites?

- Not at this time, Lightspeed is constantly working to improve its software, and we hope this feature will be added in the future.

How do I stop the Lightspeed Parent reports? I have used the unsubscribe feature in the email, but the reports continue to arrive.

- Use the same form in Skyward that you used to opt-in to opt-out. See the [LIGHTSPEED WEEKLY REPORT EMAIL OPT-IN](#).

