

# **WELCOME TO WHATCOM**

*Everything you need to know  
about middle school!*



- **GOOD PEOPLE TO KNOW AT WMS:**
  - PRINCIPAL: MISCHELLE DARRAGH
  - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: BREANN HULFORD
  - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: KARLY SCHENCK
  - ATTENDANCE: BIANCA TARLETON
  - REGISTRAR: BETH PELO-FISHBECK
  - COUNSELORS: BETH SCHILLE-O'CONNOR AND RITA HOCKING-KOMBOL

# What time does school start and end?

\*We start at 9:15 and get out at 3:45



# What classes will I have?

- Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, Science, P.E., Team Time/AVID, and Enrichment.
- Enrichment and P.E. are on opposite days (A/B days)



# What is the AVID Class?

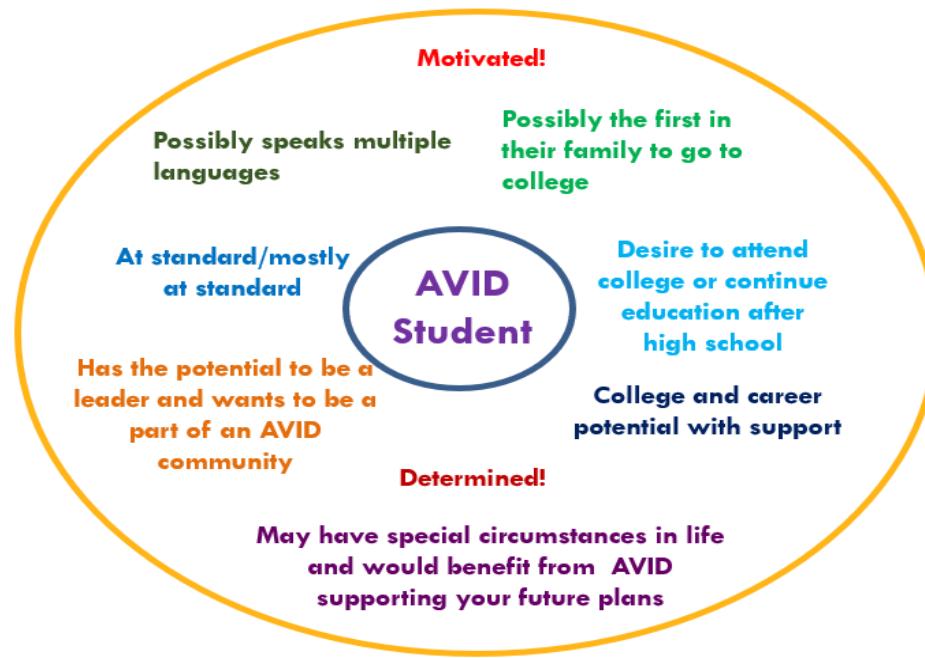


# The AVID Student Profile



- Motivated!
- Desire and determination to go to college
- College potential with support
- Priority those that are first in their family to attend college or that have circumstances that make accessing college more challenging
- Anyone that is motivated to work hard should apply!

# The AVID Student Profile





# Bellingham School District

AVID is at all 4  
Middle Schools  
in Bellingham!



# Bellingham School District



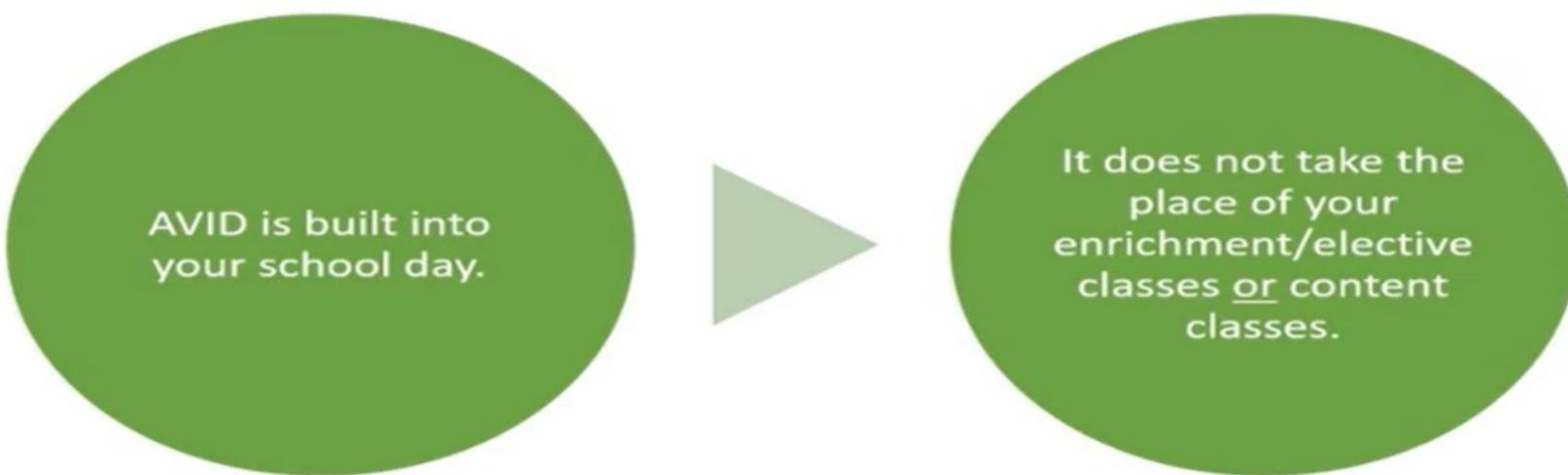
AVID is at all 4  
High Schools  
in Bellingham!





- ✓ All 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms show the AVID recruitment video in the spring.
- ✓ All interested students are encouraged to apply.
- ✓ Applications are online and paper copies will be handed out at 5th grade visits.

# The Schedule



AVID is built into  
your school day.

It does not take the  
place of your  
enrichment/elective  
classes or content  
classes.

# Next Steps – Applying for the AVID class



Whatcom Middle School

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## Academics

Whatcom is home of the  
Wildcats!

[Academics »](#)



AVID

Mrs. Russell

Imagine Learning

Khan Academy

Grammar 101

MathXL

DreamBox

Lexia PowerUp

Read180



# Next Steps – Applying for the AVID class

## AVID



**Working together to build community, leadership skills and positive student habits.**

[Whatcom AVID Recruitment Video 2022-2023](#)

[AVID Application 2022-2023](#)

Questions? Please reach out to our AVID Site Coordinator: [Melanie.KishKirkman@bellinghamschools.org](mailto:Melanie.KishKirkman@bellinghamschools.org)

### **6th grade AVID teachers**

Jennifer Aldrich

Nicole Brown

### **7th grade AVID teachers**

Melanie Kish Kirkman

Trisia Kulaas

### **8th grade AVID teachers**

Kristy Russell

Chad Wertz



## What about P.E.?

- You'll have P.E. every other day, opposite your enrichment class.
- You don't have to shower, but you should bring deodorant and clean socks and wear clothes/shoes that are good for exercising in!

# What about lockers?

- You will be assigned your own locker. Don't tell ANYONE your combination!
- Don't worry about getting put in it- you're too big to fit!
- You can decorate the inside of it, but, only with non-permanent things. You can use magnets to hang pictures.



# WHAT ABOUT LUNCH?

- You will have a half-hour for lunch, time to eat AND talk to your friends!
- You can either buy lunch or bring your own.
- If you buy lunch, you'll have the same account number in middle school that you had in elementary school.
- Each grade has their own lunch time, so, you'll be eating only with 6<sup>th</sup> graders.





## What if I get lost?

\* Lots of people can help you! You can ask for help in the main office, counseling office, or if you see another student in the hall, ask them for directions!



## What sports can I do?

Fall: Soccer, Track

Pre-Winter: Dance & Tumbling

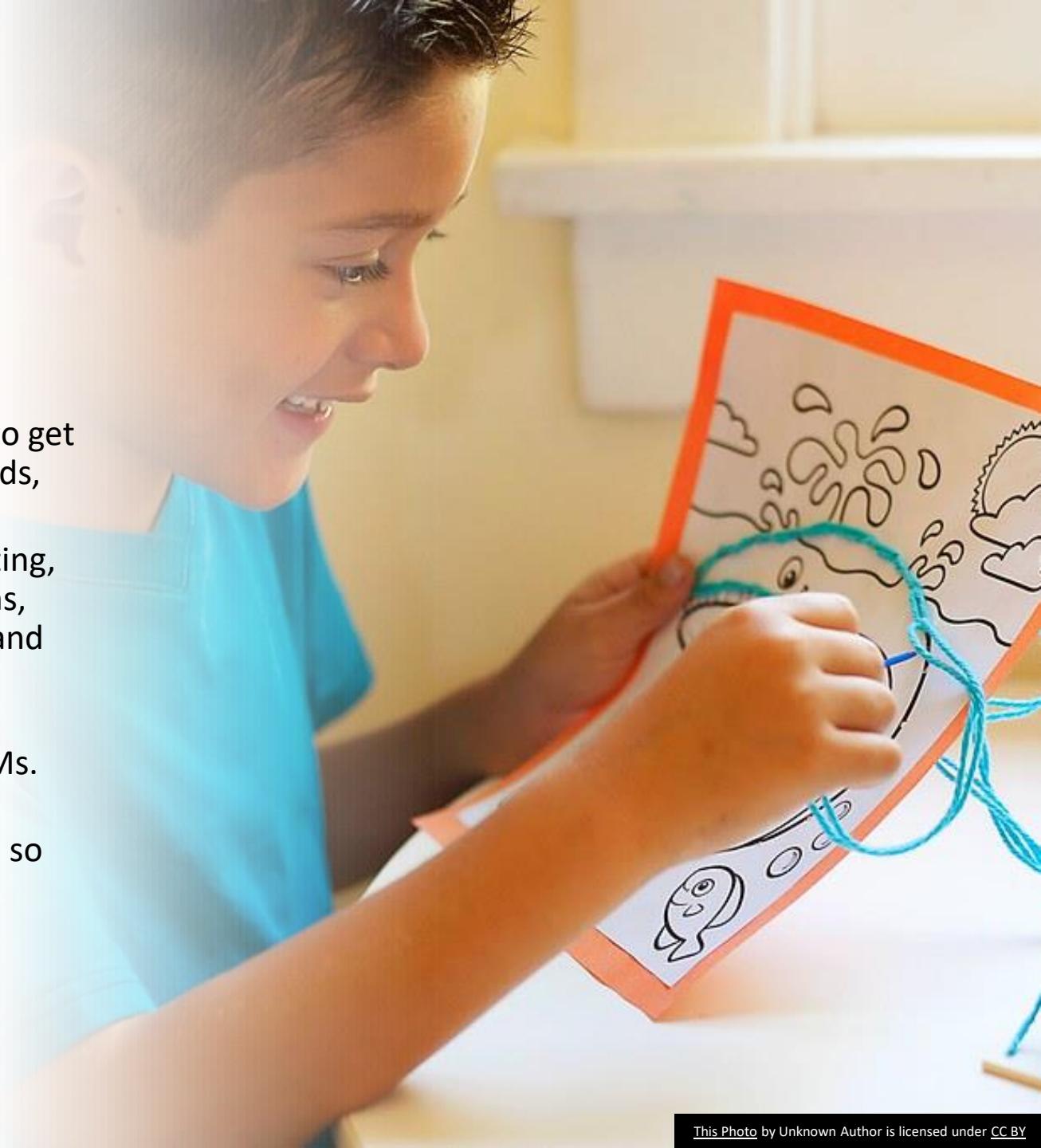
Winter: Wrestling

Spring: Cross Country, Girls Basketball

You MUST have a sports physical to participate! Get it done over the summer (get your vaccine updates at the same time) to be ready for Fall sports!

# CLUBS AT WHATCOM!

- Clubs are a great way to get involved, make new friends, and have FUN!!
- Examples include Crafting, GSA, Dungeons & Dragons, Leadership, Tunes, Bike, and more!
- If you're interested in starting a new club, see Ms. Hulford.
- Usually BEFORE school so you can still do sports.



# CAN I USE MY CELL PHONE AT SCHOOL?

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- Cell phones are not allowed during the school day so you can focus on academics and socializing with friends in person!





**...Safe  
...Kind  
...Responsible**



back to  
school

## Summer orientation!

- *Orientation (C.A.T. Day) will be approximately one week before school starts (date TBD; we'll send out confirmation in the summer)*
  - At orientation you will:
  - Meet your classmates, some teachers, and some 7th & 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
  - Get your schedule
  - Tour the building
  - Try out your locker
  - Have fun!



We are so happy to  
welcome you to  
Whatcom!