



THE BIG BLUE NEWS WELCOMES A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!!

New Students Find a Home at WHMS



This is Layla Rogers, Hade Rosa, and Easton Lowry standing in a hallway.

Sadie Cobb
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

I'm Sadie Cobb, a new 8th grade student at White House Middle School. When I first heard I was going to a new school I was feeling all sorts of emotions. I was scared, sad, excited, and anxious. Once I got here, I was welcomed by everyone. The teachers were very nice and welcoming and so were the students. One thing my old school didn't have was as many clubs as this one. Overall, I'm excited to spend the rest of the year at White House Middle School. Hade made new friends and felt welcomed by teachers and students. Her favorite part of the day was walking time. In 8th grade Easton's first day was good. He met new friends and his favorite part of the day is going home. Also in 8th grade Hade first day was good but she was nervous and had anxiety, but once she started to talk to people she felt more comfortable and her favorite part of her day is related arts because she gets time to relax and thinks her teacher is cool. Overall the new students felt very welcomed by teachers and students.

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- MEET THE ADMIN!!

Stars in the Making: WHMS Celebrates 8th Grade Athletes



Titan Tyson with his dad

Tanner Alestra- WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)
The 8th grade athletes really are stars in the making. At the 8th grade night football game on Sep. 9th we were able to celebrate the athletes from our school sports including cross country, football, and cheer teams. The final score of the football game was 28-0 with the White House Blue Devils winning and remaining undefeated. Everyone was enjoying this opportunity to have a fun time hanging out with friends, going to get some yummy concessions, and watching the game. The entire school is so proud of our amazing athletes and the accomplishment they have made for themselves and the school.

Friday Night Lights



Emilie Mihalick wearing Phoenix wings for this year's performance, Out of Ash.

Ava Ellis
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

Marching Band requires a lot of work. Marching band can play a big part in many people's lives, some starting at a very young age, and others it being their future career. Students in the band say they love this year's show, because "being majestic birds is fun," and "I'm better." Marching band is difficult, but it's so rewarding when we have a good run. Throughout the season, you gain so many friendships and the people around you are like a second family. Kids in band say they enjoy competitions, usually everyone is nervous to begin with, but after performing everyone's excited and hopeful for good results.

CBI Common Bus Issues

Ash King
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

There are many issues on buses: students yelling, trash, and bus drivers distracted. I've seen kids stand up, jump or crawl over seats, and fight. These things are dangerous and could cause a crash. To prevent this, sit correctly, be quiet, and avoid drama or fights.

Maintaining a Positive Mindset



Leia Newhouse

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

Mental health is becoming more challenging for middle schoolers, partly due to social media apps like TikTok, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat. While these platforms help students stay connected, they can also be used for cyberbullying—hurtful comments, messages, or images online. The effects often spill into classrooms and hallways, turning into real-life bullying. This pressure can leave students feeling overwhelmed, isolated, or hopeless. Experts warn that bullying both in school and online increases the risk of harmful thoughts and behaviors. Schools, parents, and communities are working on solutions like teaching safe use, encouraging kindness, and ensuring students know how to get help. You can try visiting the park, or playing your favorite sport.

If you're not in the mood for outdoor activities, you can get creative! Try painting, drawing, coloring, or finding a cool craft online to make.

Whatever you choose, I hope these ideas help keep you busy and make your summer break even more fun!

Does sugar make children hyperactive?

ALAINA BISSELL

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

A myth we believe is sugar makes kids hyperactive. Sugar doesn't—it applies to everyone. Foods increase activity to fuel brains and bodies. Sugar enters quickly but doesn't cause long-term changes. Athletes use energy drinks with sugar for stimulation. Children's short attention spans are often mistaken for sugar's effect.



Upcoming Events

EVENTS

FCA Whole Group - Every Wednesday & Friday at 7:40

Newspaper Club - Wednesdays until 4:30

Robotics Club - every Thursday until 4:00

Book Club - Wednesday Morning, Friday

Afternoon as scheduled

Club Day - October 2nd

Volleyball Games - October 10th, 17th, 18th, 22nd

End Of Quarter - October 3rd

CONCERTS

Band Concert - September 30th

Choir Concert - October 2nd

VENDING

September 26

SCHOOLS OUT

Fall Break October 6th-10th

Teacher Spotlight



Olivia McCook

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

This school year, after Ms. Paek finished her college journey at Vanderbilt University, White House Middle welcomed her as our new special education teacher and volleyball coach. She was very happy to see the great community this school holds and felt welcomed with open arms. Her most influential volleyball coach, which she had in high school, pushed her to her limit and she hopes to do the same with our WHMS team. Ms. Paek specializes in special education because ever since she was a kid, she wanted to give every person the same opportunity as everyone else has to learn. She is an asset to White House Middle School and we are so glad to have her.

Never Forget: A Tribute to Firefighters



Elaina Hendricks

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

Firefighters have saved countless lives. Whether it be saving cats from trees, people from house fires and buildings, or kids from schools, they are always there when you need them. In support of the firefighters who saved so many lives and sacrificed their own during the falling of the twin towers, people sign up to climb stairs the equivalent of the World Trade Centers, which is 110 stories. The 9/11 Memorial Stair Climbs helps with funding the organizations that support Fire Hero Families, and donations provide assistance towards the families and coworkers of the firefighters. If you have anyone in your life, WHMS Newspaper Club encourages you to ask them about it, see if they remember how it felt, and what changes occurred after the attacks.

Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Mini Loaves

2 cups all-purpose flour	¼-2/3 cup granulated sugar (adjust for sweetness)
1 tsp baking soda	2 eggs
1 ¼ tsp baking powder	1 tsp vanilla extract
1 tsp ground cinnamon	1 can (15 oz) pumpkin purée
¼ tsp ground nutmeg	½ cup vegetable oil
¼ tsp ground cloves	¼ cup milk
1 tsp pumpkin pie spice	1 cup chocolate chips or mini chocolate chips
¼ cup brown sugar	

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease mini loaf pans.

In a bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, and pumpkin pie spice.

In another bowl, mix eggs, sugars, vanilla, pumpkin purée, oil, and milk until smooth.

Gradually fold dry ingredients into wet ingredients. Stir in chocolate chips.

Divide batter evenly into 12 mini loaf pans.

Bake mini loaves 23-25 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean.

For a full loaf, bake 55-60 minutes.

Cool before serving.



Sports Headline

Blue Devils Stay Undefeated with 22-6 Win Over Ellis



Blue Devil goes for a touchdown!

RIDGE MILLS- WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)

Fans packed in for concessions, friends, and an exciting Tuesday night football game. The Blue Devils are 4-0, aiming for 5-0 under Coaches Wise and Evetts. They kicked off against Ellis, starting slow with a 0-0 first quarter. In the second, WH scored a touchdown and converted a 2-point attempt (8-0). Ellis answered (8-6), but WH added another touchdown, leading 16-6 at halftime. The cheerleaders performed a great halftime show. Late in the third, WH forced a fumble, and Kemari Hamilton scored, making it 22-6. The fourth quarter was scoreless. Kemari scored twice, and Gus Gouvas made key plays.



2025 WHMS Cheer Squad

Cheer Is a Mindset: Inside WHMS Cheerleading

Evie Keeler--

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)

Every Monday and Thursday from 3:40 to 5:30, the cheer team practices hard. We start with a jog, but if we mess up during a game—forgetting cheers, missing counts, or mixing up offense and defense—we add extra time. Mondays focus on football cheers and quarter routines, while Thursdays are for competition routines, jumps, tumbling, and teamwork.

Our coaches keep us motivated. Ms. Williams began coaching to pass on the passion and support her own coach gave her. Coach Kylee, who was both a base and flyer, shares her love for the sport, while Coach Buddy designs our routines and music. Cheer camp is one of the best parts of the year—a week of learning, bonding, and perfecting our competition routine.

We also have three captains: Kasten Darnall, practice captain and flyer; Neylan Porter, football captain and main base; and Sidder Boyles, basketball captain and back spot. Together, they keep the team organized and ready.

Cheer isn't just about chants and stunts. It's about mindset. strong athlete with a negative attitude can hold us back, while a positive outlook lifts the whole squad. cont..

For me, cheer is also tradition. My mom and grandma were cheerleaders, and I've been cheering for six years.

From practices to game days, cheer has taught me discipline, teamwork, and the power of positivity.

Lady Devils Volleyball Team Wrap-Up

Khloe Summers and Norah Garrett WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

This season, the Lady Devils Volleyball Team has been serving up more than just aces—they've brought energy, determination, and a winning mindset to every game.

On September 8, both JV and Varsity took home wins against T.W. Hunter. The JV girls dominated in two sets, finishing 25-21 and 21-19, with strong serves and high energy leading to an impressive comeback in the second set. Varsity had a tougher start, dropping the first set 25-22. They bounced back to win the second set 25-19 and closed the match with a thrilling 15-12 victory. After the games, Lanzlee Hodges said, "I think both teams played well and kept high energy through both games. All the team members played with great camaraderie."

Support the Lady Devils at their next home game against Portland East—JV at 4:30, Varsity at 5:30.

Movie of the Month

by HENSLEY BAKER



Berk is a Viking village that has always fought against dragons. When Hiccup, the misfit chief's son, is thrown into a dragon-fighting school, he endeavors to prove himself as a true Viking. One fateful night, he captures an elusive Night Fury. Over time, he and the dragon become friends and he names it Toothless. Will the unlikely pair be caught or will they save their bond and broker peace between the dragons and Vikings?





Out of the Country

COLE MORGAN

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

Many teachers have lived their entire lives in White House, but some have explored the world and seen its wonders from different perspectives. Those teachers share information about various activities and religions, like Mrs. Scheel. Our seventh-grade teacher has been to Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, and will visit South America this summer. In some places, people perform traditional dances their ancestors did for entertainment. Foods she tried include fish and rice in Asia and pigeons and bread in Africa. Mrs. Scheel loved traveling but still wanted to live in her hometown, so she moved here and has lived here ever since. Mrs. Scheel is so cool—if you see her in the hall, don't forget to say hi.

Meet the Admirable Admin



Christian McCauley

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

At White House Middle School we don't know much about the admin so here's a little sneak peek into who they are!

Ms. Parker says that she most looks forward to students growing and seeing them go on to better things in high school! If she were to go on a vacation anytime, anywhere, without a care in the world - she would go to someplace warm and with her lovely family. Ms. Parker says that 20 years ago, she saw herself as a teacher but 25 years ago she saw herself doing something completely different!

Mr. Mills said what he most looks forward to this school year is kids being more respectful, kind, loving, and that we are more fortunate than we realize so we need to treat each other with love and respect. Mr. Mills said cont

cont.... that if he had to go anywhere without a care in the world and who would he go with, he would go somewhere hot like the Caribbean and with his best friend.

He also stated that he saw himself either coaching a baseball team or being a principal.

FICTION STORY Whispers of Power and the Forgotten Past

EVIE SCHEEL AND ELISE WALLER
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

Thousands of years ago there was a Great War between the Gifted and the humans. The Gifted, people born with birthmarks that, when awakened, give them power, felt superior to the powerless humans, so the king decided to wipe them out. It ended bloody and brutal, the Gifted winning the war but losing many lives. After the war ended, a group of the Gifted put a spell on the humans, making them forget the Gifted ever existed in this world. There are a lot of humans who have remembered the Gifted, but there is still tension between us.

My name is Aisling. My family disappeared when I was 4, and everyone assumes that rebellious humans killed them. I was taken in by my uncle Finn, and my cousins Aidan and Aine treat me like I'm their sister. I have a moon birthmark, but I have heard whispers that I might not get my powers because no one knows who my father was, and there are people who think that he might have been a human. We Gifted are born with our birthmarks, but our powers come when we turn 13 and go to the Unlocking, a ceremony at Velmir Academy, a school where we can learn to control our magic. I was so excited to get my power and prove everyone wrong. Then my entire world turned upside down.

Student Spotlight



This week I am interviewing sixth grader Aaron Craig. I picked Aaron because he is shy, and I thought other 6th graders would like to get to know him better. I asked him a series of questions about school and his personal life.

Aaron is eleven and attended White House Intermediate last year. He is enjoying sixth grade and says, "all his teachers are very nice." His least favorite thing is that he only has one class with his favorite person and misses spending more time with them. Aaron is fun and laughs at his friend's little brother learning to talk, funny videos, and his friend's "so bad they are funny" jokes. He loves football and hopes to play in the NFL and entertain people like the players he watches. If he could meet any celebrity, he would choose his favorite singer, Forrest Frank. Overall, Aaron is a kind and fun student and a great representation of our school—say hello if you see him this year!

Book of the Month

by HENSLEY BAKER



When Anne arrives at the Green Gables farmhouse, she is sure she wants to stay forever... but will the Cuthberts send her back to the orphanage? Anne is not what they expected- a skinny, red-headed girl with a temper to match. Turning ordinary life into a series of unforgettable adventures, Anne has a limitless imagination that carries her through even the toughest of scrapes with the Cuthberts, in school and in the town. Set in the late 19th century, in the fictional town of Avonlea on Prince Edward Island, Canada, this novel has been considered a must-read classic since the mid-twentieth century.