



TRAILBLAZER NEWS

February 2026

MARCUS WHITMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dear MWMS Families,

As we close out January at Marcus Whitman Middle School, I want to pause and thank you for the trust you place in us every day. Our school is strongest when families and staff work together, and your partnership continues to make a meaningful difference for our students.

Celebrating Our Elite Trailblazers

This month has been full of moments that make me proud to serve this community. We received wonderful feedback from community members about our students' behavior and character:

- Staff at the Museum of Flight praised our students for their engagement and respect during our first schoolwide field trip
- Wrestling coaches commended our athletes for their sportsmanship and inclusivity
- Parents reached out to share how welcomed their children felt by classmates

In our classrooms and common spaces, I've seen students rising to the challenge of what it means to be an Elite Trailblazer. During our 6th and 7th grade assemblies, students demonstrated exceptional maturity sitting silently with still bodies and their eyes on the speaker.

Our theater students delivered their first performance of the year with confidence and creativity, and our choir and orchestra performances were nothing short of phenomenal, showcasing the dedication of both students and staff.

Perhaps most importantly, students are showing courage by reporting concerns about bullying to help keep our school safe. This kind of upstander behavior is exactly what we hope to see, and it tells me our students understand that safety is everyone's responsibility.

We're also seeing growth in daily habits—students are working on cleaning up after themselves in the cafeteria and common areas (we're getting better, though we still have work to do!), showing manners, and treating one another with respect in hallways and classrooms.

Our Focus Moving Forward

Middle school is a time of tremendous growth. Your children are learning not only content, but also responsibility, perseverance, and kindness. As we move into February and beyond, we remain focused on:

- Keeping students safe and supported
- Strengthening academic expectations and study skills
- Building a positive school culture grounded in respect and accountability
- Preparing students for success in high school and beyond

How You Can Partner With Us

Thank you for reinforcing these values at home and for encouraging your child to show up each day ready to learn and grow. A few specific ways you can support:

- **Ask your child** about what they're learning, who they ate lunch with, and what they're proud of this week
- **Reinforce expectations** around attendance, homework completion, and organization
- **Encourage upstander behavior** when they see something that doesn't feel right
- **Stay connected** with teachers, counselors, or administrators—reach out with questions, concerns, or celebrations

Tara Ranzy

Principal, Marcus Whitman Middle School

"Home of the Elite Trailblazers"



Parent–Principal Conversations - Mark Your Calendar

We're excited to launch a series of Parent–Principal meetings this year to connect, share updates, and hear from families. Meetings will alternate between virtual and in-person formats for easy participation.

Schedule:

- **March:** Virtual – Wed, Mar 25, 6:00–7:00 p.m. | In-Person – Wed, Mar 25, 10:00–11:00 a.m.
- **May:** Virtual – Tues, May 19, 9:00–10:00 a.m. | In-Person – Tues, May 19, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Extras: Coffee and donuts will be provided at in-person meetings, and we hope to offer parenting books for families.

Stay tuned for more details and mark your calendars. We look forward to connecting with you!

Please use the link to join the virtual meetings:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83232505186?
pwd=3LqImHDVTNuADodDVHBhnmQpeh0EfP](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83232505186?pwd=3LqImHDVTNuADodDVHBhnmQpeh0EfP)

Meeting ID: 832 3250 5186

Passcode: 560867

We want to make you aware of a concerning trend that has begun to surface at school. Some students have been engaging in a game commonly referred to as “**Bloody Knuckles.**” This activity involves intentionally striking one another’s hands and can result in injury.

For the safety and well-being of all students, this behavior is strictly prohibited at school, including in classrooms, hallways, and common areas. Any student participating will be addressed according to our school discipline procedures.

We ask for your partnership in speaking with your student about:

- Making safe and respectful choices
- Avoiding games or activities that can cause harm
- Reporting unsafe behavior to an adult immediately

Thank you for helping us reinforce expectations and keep our school community safe.



Reminder: No Perfumes, Colognes, or Body Sprays at School

This is a reminder that students should **not bring or apply perfumes, colognes, or body sprays at school.**

Strong scents can trigger allergies, asthma, headaches, and other health concerns for students and staff. To help keep our learning environment safe and comfortable for everyone, these items should remain at home.

Thank you for your support and partnership in keeping MWMS a healthy, focused place to learn.

— MWMS Administration

All You Need is Love Social

The spirit day will be dress to
impress!!!

February 13th from 3-4 pm!

Ticket cost - \$5 w/o ASB, \$4 with
ASB, \$6 the day of

Photo booth set up for pictures -
\$1 for a polaroid picture and free
for a photo on your phone!

Games !

We will have Four games giant jenga,
giant connect 4, giant chess, and
balloon darts





Attention 8th Graders!

SAVE THE DATE

**INCOMING FRESHMAN
INFORMATION NIGHT**

CLASS of 2030

We invite you to South Kitsap High School on:

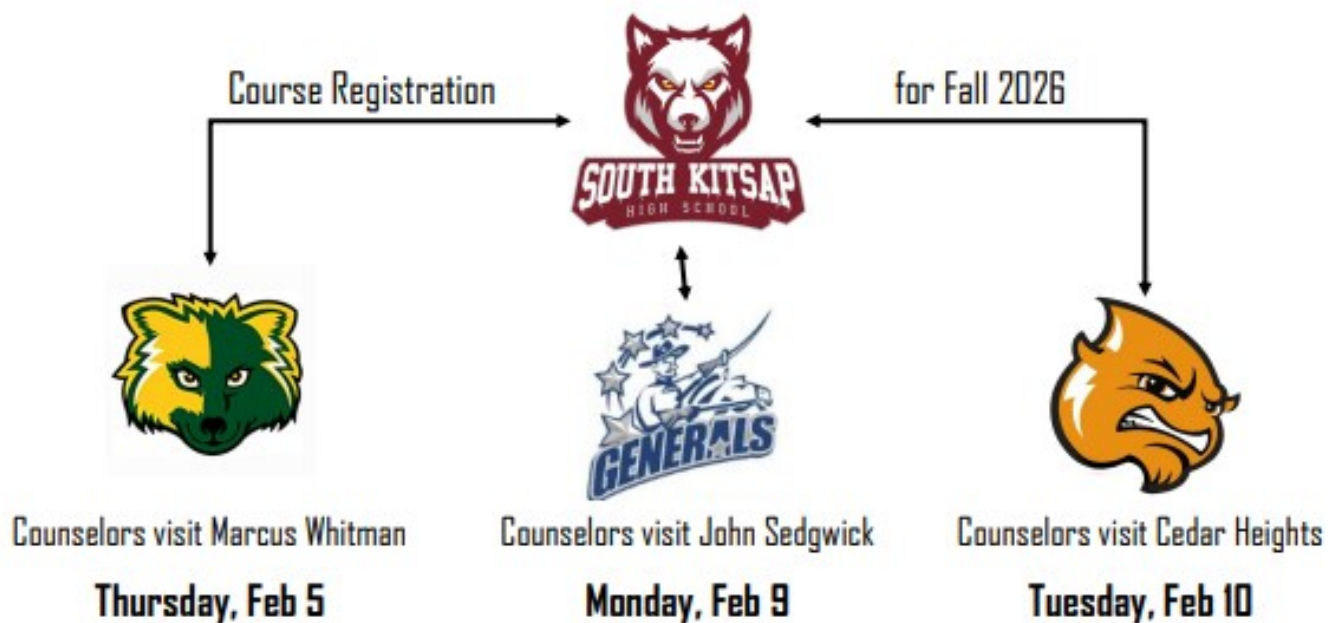
Tuesday, February 10th

Get information about registering for fall classes, meet your counselors, visit with teachers, students, coaches and club members to ask questions and find out what it will mean to follow the Way of the WOLF for the next 4 years.

LAST NAME A-K: Presentation 5:30-6:00pm in the theatre

LAST NAME L-Z: Presentation 6:15-6:45pm in the theatre

Teachers, Coaches and Club representatives in the commons: 5:30-7:00pm



skhs.skschools.org



@SouthKitsapHigh



facebook.com/SKHSWolves

GIRLS INTRAMURAL BOWLING

Attention Girls grades 6/7/8, Intramural Bowling is starting the 1st week in March. Any interested girls wanting to enjoy time with friends while bowling as well as meeting others from Cedar and Sedgwick, this activity is for you.

There will be a meeting Tuesday February 24th before and after school in the girls locker room with Coach Gadberry. All players need to have forms completed in Final Forms as well as an updated sports physical before the start of the season which takes place Tuesday March 3rd.



Wrestling Match Schedule

All games start at 4:00 pm

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE
Feb 2	Sedgwick	Marcus
Feb 4	Hawkins	Hawkins
Feb 9	Curtis	Curtis
Feb 11	Cedar	Cedar
Feb 23	Central Kitsap	Marcus
Feb 26	Fairview	Marcus
Mar 3	JV Tournament	North Kitsap HS
Mar 7	WSMSL Finals	Central



Girls Basketball Game Schedule

All games start at 3:30 pm

Date	Opponent	Place
Feb 2	Cedar	Cedar
Feb 5	Klahowya	Klahowya
Feb 9	Hawkins	Marcus
Feb 11	Central Kitsap	Marcus
Feb 24	Kingston	Kingston
Feb 26	Curtis	Curtis
Mar 4	Sedgwick	Marcus

After School Clubs

Culinary Clubs meets Thursday in Room 101 from 2:50 – 4pm.

DRAMA TEAM - Drama Team meets Thursday from 2:45 – 3:45 in the theater. Be sure you have your permission slip turned in. Everyone is welcome!

Marcus GSA Club: The Marcus 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 Thursday after school until 3:50. A permission slip signed by student and parent must be submitted before participation. You can get a permission slip from the Main Office.

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.

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.

Unified Club! Get ready for another year of fun events, engaging activities, and inspiring inclusion school community **Unified Club**. We will meet in room #203 Mrs. Schroeder's room, from 2:45PM-3:45PM. First day will be Wednesday, Sept 24th. This club is a space for students of all backgrounds to come together and feel like they have a voice and belonging, We offer unified robotics competitions (2nd year) and sport activities. Please fill out an application and turn it into ASB. See you there!

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

Running/Walking Club—Join the Marcus Whitman Running/Walking Club. We meet on Monday afternoons from 2:50 to 4:00 starting in Room 107 starting November 10th. See Mrs. Kogan if you have any questions. Just need a water bottle and a comfortable pair of shoes.

Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Moore recently had the exciting opportunity to take a small group of students to visit NBK – Bangor Trident Refit Facility and tour the *USS Nevada*, a nuclear-powered submarine.

Students gained hands-on learning about submarine operations, naval careers, teamwork, and the technology that keeps these incredible vessels running. It was an educational, eye-opening experience — and a lot of fun!



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:

Cristin Blaskowitz,
Director of Special Services
2689 Hoover Avenue SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366
360-443-3627
blaskowitz@skschools.org

Gender Inclusivity Compliance Officer:

Monica Zuber,
Assistant Superintendent for School Leadership
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