



# TRAILBLAZER NEWS

March 2026

## MARCUS WHITMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dear MWMS Families,

As we move into March, we are grateful for the energy, growth, and leadership we continue to see in our students. This season always brings renewed focus, exciting events, and opportunities to celebrate the many accomplishments happening across our school community.

We also recognize that children today are navigating a fast-paced world filled with information, social pressures, and daily stressors. Even when adults think students are not paying attention, they are often highly attuned to the emotional climate around them.

Research reminds us of something powerful: **regulated adults help regulate children.** When the adults in a child's life remain calm, predictable, and emotionally grounded, it creates a sense of safety and stability. Both school and home can serve as steady, supportive environments where students feel secure and ready to learn.

Here are a few ways we can work together to create psychological and emotional safety for our students:

- Model calm and measured responses.
- Maintain consistent routines.
- Validate feelings without escalating them.
- Encourage healthy sleep, nutrition, and movement.
- Create daily check-in moments for connection.
- Limit overexposure to overwhelming information when possible.

At MWMS, we are committed to structured classrooms, clear expectations, and strong relationships. When school and home partner together to provide consistency and calm, students are better able to focus, grow, and thrive.

Thank you for helping us create environments where students feel safe, supported, and ready to learn.

With appreciation,  
Marcus Whitman Middle School

Congratulations to last month's **Kiwanis Student of the Month, Meg Billings!**

Meg consistently demonstrates exceptional effort and perseverance, never allowing setbacks to discourage her. She approaches challenges with a growth mindset, seeks support when needed, and works diligently until concepts are mastered — all while encouraging and supporting her peers along the way.

Meg leads quietly but powerfully through her actions. She models integrity and trustworthiness, and staff know they can count on her to complete tasks responsibly and do the right thing. Her kindness and empathy create a positive, supportive presence in our school community.

In addition to being a strong student, Meg is also an impressive athlete. She consistently shows respect toward others and serves as a positive role model for her peers. She values diverse opinions and backgrounds and helps foster an inclusive environment at MWMS.

Meg, we are proud of your dedication and character. Keep striving and accomplishing your goals — you represent MWMS well!

Congratulations to our **Kiwanis Student of the Month, Tynisha “Tyni” Ranada!**

Tyni consistently demonstrates strong character, academic excellence, and leadership both in and out of the classroom. She is known for being kind, friendly, and respectful to everyone in our school community, and she regularly goes out of her way to support peers and younger students.

Teachers describe Tyni as a responsible role model with a positive attitude, perseverance, and a true “stick-with-it” mindset. Whether in academics, athletics, or daily interactions, she leads by example, does the right thing even when no one is watching, and positively influences those around her.

Her dedication, honesty, and commitment make her a valued leader at MWMS. We are incredibly proud of her and this well-deserved recognition. Congratulations, Tyni!

## **Academic Focus**

March is an important academic month as we prepare for spring assessments and continue building toward end-of-year goals. We encourage families to:

- Monitor grades in Skyward.
- Ask your student about current projects and upcoming assessments.
- Celebrate effort and growth — not just outcomes.
- Maintain consistent attendance and routines.

Small daily habits lead to big results.

## Counseling & Student Support

Our counseling team continues to support students with academic planning, social-emotional growth, and preparation for next year's course selections. If you have questions about scheduling, advanced classes, or student supports, please don't hesitate to reach out.

## Thank You, Families

Thank you for your partnership in supporting high expectations, consistent attendance, and positive behavior. We look forward to a strong and productive March at MWMS!

With appreciation,

**Tara Ranzy**

Principal, Marcus Whitman Middle School

## Parent–Principal Conversations

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.>

Meeting ID: 832 3250 5186

Passcode: 560867

## Girls Volleyball Tryouts (Starts March 16-20) – 6th-8th Grade

Meet in the Gym after school for attendance. Students cannot enter the locker rooms until their eligibility is confirmed in Final Forms.

Tryout Schedule (Tentative, Subject to Change):

**Monday, March 16 & Tuesday, March 17**

- 6th Grade: 3:00-4:00 PM
- 7th Grade 4:05-5:05 PM
- 8th Grade: 5:10-6:10 PM
- First Round of Cuts will be made Tuesday evening.

**Wednesday, March 18**

- 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade: 3:00-5:00 PM
- Final Round of Cuts will be made Wednesday evening.

**Thursday, March 19 & Friday, March 20**

- Practice: 3:00-5:00 PM

Tryout Expectations:

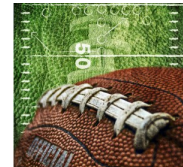
- Players will be evaluated on **teamwork, coachability, and skill level.**
- **This is a cut sport** – not all players will make Varsity, JV, or C Team.

## Football (7th & 8th Grade) – No Tryouts!

Meet in the Commons after school for attendance. Students cannot enter the locker rooms until eligibility is confirmed.

**All eligible students are welcome to participate!**

**Practice Begins:** Monday, March 16 - 3:05-5:30 PM



## Flag Football Tryouts (March 16-18) – 6th & 7th Grade

Meet in the Commons after school for attendance. Students cannot enter the locker rooms until eligibility is confirmed.

**Tryout Schedule (Tentative, Subject to Change):**

**March 16-18:** 3:00-5:00 PM

**Practice Schedule (For those who make the team):**

3 days per week or 2 days per week + 1 Friday game.

## Cross Country – No Tryouts!

Meet in the Commons after school for attendance. Students cannot enter the locker rooms until eligibility is confirmed.

**Practice Begins:** Monday, March 16

## Girls Bowling Starts March 3 – 6th-8th Grade

**An informational meeting will be held before & after school Tuesday, February 24th, in the Girls Locker Room. Students cannot begin practices until their eligibility is confirmed in Final Forms.**

### State Testing Dates & Information

Below you will find the testing schedule for our required state testing. All students will be participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessment for Math and ELA (see detailed schedule below). Our eighth graders will also be taking the Washington Comprehensive Assessment for Science (WCAS) during their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> period classes on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Tuesday May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday May 7 <sup>th</sup>
8th WCAS 8th Grade Only (1st/2nd Period)		ELA CAT (2 Hours)
Tuesday May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday May 14 <sup>th</sup>
ELA PT (2 Hours)		Math PT (1 hour)
Tuesday May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday May 21 <sup>st</sup>
Math CAT (1 Hour)		

WCAS=Washington Comprehensive  
Assessment of Science  
CAT=Computer Adaptive Test  
PT=Performance Task

If your student is absent on the day of testing, we will have them make up the test prior to the end of the testing window. If you know you will be gone multiple days, then please email Mrs. Chang the dates, so she can arrange an alternate testing time, if necessary.

To help your student perform their best, please make sure they are well rested and eat a healthy breakfast. They will need to come prepared with a charged Chromebook and wired headphones. A good pep talk never hurts!

If you have any questions regarding testing, you may reach out to Mrs. Chang at 360-874-6175 or via email at [chang@skschools.org](mailto:chang@skschools.org).

#### May 7<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> Special Bell Schedule

Testing Block: 8:10am to 10:10am  
Periods 1 to 6: 10:15am to 2:45pm  
Lunch Times:

6th: 10:55-11:25  
7th: 11:35-12:05  
8th: 12:15 –12:45

#### May 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Special Bell Schedule

Testing Block: 8:10am to 9:10am  
Periods 1 to 6: 9:15am to 2:45pm  
Lunch Times:

6th: 10:55-11:25  
7th: 11:45-12:15  
8th: 12:35 –1:05

# See's CANDIES®

MARCUS WHITMAN  
MUSIC DEPT



## Spring Candy Fundraiser

Order now thru March 20th

To benefit our band, choir, and  
orchestra students.

[8HTTPS://WWW.YUMRAISING.COM/STORE/SPRING-2026-MARCUS-WHITMAN-MIDDLE-SCHOOL-MUSIC-A811/ANDS1E8865](https://www.yumraising.com/store/spring-2026-marcus-whitman-middle-school-music-a811/AndS1e8865)

## Wrestling Match Schedule

All games start at 4:00 pm

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE
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
Mar 4	Sedgwick	Marcus

## Football Schedule -4:00 start

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE
Mar 31	Jamboree	SKHS
Apr 23	Cedar	Marcus
Apr 30	Central	Central
May 7	Hawkins	Hawkins
May 14	Sedgwick	Marcus
May 21	Kingston	Marcus
May 28	Fairview	Fairview

## Cross Country Meet Schedule - 4:00 start

Date	Opponent	Place
Apr 1	Jamboree	Marcus
Apr 22	JS/Mt. View	Mt. View
Apr 29	KSS/Curtis	Curtis
May 6	Hawkins/Central	Central
May 13	Hawkins/Fairview	Poulsbo
May 20	KSS/Hawkins	Marcus
May 26	South Futurist	Sedgwick

## Volleyball Game Schedule - 3:30 start

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Place</b>
Apr 23	Sedgwick	Marcus
Apr 28	Fairview	Fairview
Apr 30	Central	Marcus
May 5	Ridgetop	Ridgetop
May 7	Mt. View	Marcus
May 12	Cedar	Cedar
May 14	Kingston	Kingston
May 19	Hawkins	Marcus
May 21	Curtis	Marcus
May 28	Poulsbo	Poulsbo



## Girls Bowling

All matches start at 2:30

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Place</b>
Mar 3	Practice	Hi Joy Bowl
Mar 4	Practice	Hi Joy Bowl
Mar 5	Practice	Hi Joy Bowl
Mar 10	Sedgwick/Cedar	Hi Joy Bowl
Mar 12	Sedgwick/Cedar	Hi Joy Bowl
Mar 17	Sedgwick/Cedar	Hi Joy Bowl
Mar 19	Sedgwick/Cedar	Hi Joy Bowl
Mar 24	Sedgwick/Cedar	Hi Joy Bowl
Mar 26	Sedgwick/Cedar	Hi Joy Bowl

# 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 24<sup>th</sup>. 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup>. See Mrs. Kogan if you have any questions. Just need a water bottle and a comfortable pair of shoes.

# PEP ASSEMBLY SPIRIT WEEK

## MARCH 9TH - 13TH

MONDAY:

Camo Day

TUESDAY

Disney Day

WEDNESDAY:

Tacky

Tourist Day

THURSDAY:

Dress as  
your

favorite  
teacher

FRIDAY:

Color Wars

8-white

7-green

6-yellow



Marcus Whitman 12's supporting the Seattle Seahawks

It was a fun day.

Dare we say that our support was a direct connection to their ultimate win.

Go Hawks!!



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:

Cristin Blaskowitz,

Director of Special Services

2689 Hoover Avenue SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366

360-443-3627

[blaskowitz@skschools.org](mailto:blaskowitz@skschools.org)

Gender Inclusivity Compliance Officer:

Monica Zuber,

Assistant Superintendent for School Leadership

2689 Hoover Ave SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366

360-874-7003

[zuber@skschools.org](mailto:zuber@skschools.org)

