



TRAILBLAZER NEWS

May 2026

MARCUS WHITMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL



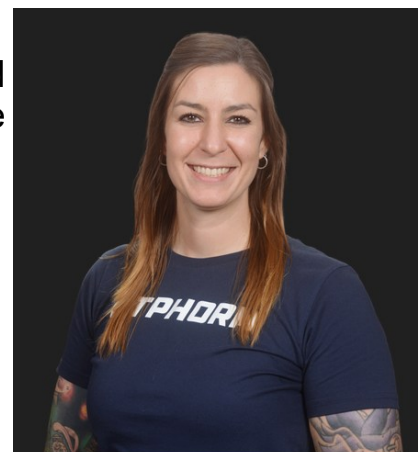
Masonic Teacher of the Year

Kashi is an outstanding educator who demonstrates a strong combination of instructional excellence, measurable student growth, and leadership within our school community. As a Math Support teacher, she works closely with students who often experience significant challenges in mathematics. Through intentional relationship-building, differentiated instruction, and consistent use of goal-setting and progress monitoring, she has created a learning environment where students build both academic skills and confidence. Her impact is reflected in the number of students who have successfully exited intervention as a result of their growth.

In addition to her work with students, Kashi is a valued instructional leader among her colleagues. She actively participates in Professional Learning Communities, supports the growth of fellow staff members, and brings new learning into our building through her involvement in regional Math Fellows. Her leadership contributes meaningfully to instructional practice across Marcus Whitman.

Kashi consistently reflects the values of the South Kitsap School District, with a strong commitment to equity, belonging, collaboration, and continuous improvement. She is a respected and trusted member of our school community whose work makes a lasting difference for students and staff alike.

We are proud to celebrate Kashi for this well-deserved recognition and grateful for the positive impact she makes every day at MWMS.



April Kiwanis Student of the Month Winner

Kiwanis Student of the Month — Hannah Shepherdson

We are incredibly proud to recognize Hannah Shepherdson as our Kiwanis Student of the Month.

Hannah is the kind of student every school hopes for—someone who not only excels academically, but also elevates those around her through her character, leadership, and service. In the classroom, she consistently demonstrates outstanding effort and a genuine commitment to learning. She takes pride in her work, stays organized, participates actively, and approaches challenges with a strong growth mindset. Hannah doesn't just aim to succeed—she aims to grow and improve every day.

Beyond academics, Hannah is a positive and steady leader in our school community. As a member of AVID and a Marcus Mentor, she models responsibility, encouragement, and positivity for her peers. She leads not through attention, but through consistency—showing up, doing what is right, and supporting others in meaningful ways. What truly sets Hannah apart is her commitment to service. Each week, she volunteers at Orchard Heights Elementary, working with younger students and making a lasting impact beyond our campus. She also dedicates her time to supporting after-school events, demonstrating a strong sense of responsibility and care for her community.

Hannah is known for her character. She is trustworthy, respectful, and dependable. Staff and students alike can count on her to follow through, treat others with kindness, and lead with integrity—even when no one is watching.

Most importantly, Hannah brings empathy and inclusion into every space she enters. She ensures others feel welcomed, valued, and seen. That quiet, consistent kindness is what makes her such a powerful example of what it means to be a Trailblazer.

Hannah, we are incredibly proud of you. You represent the very best of Marcus Whitman Middle School, and we cannot wait to see all that you continue to accomplish. Congratulations, and thank you!

Reminder About Recording Students and Staff

We are writing to make you aware of an important reminder regarding student use of technology.

We have received reports that students may be using devices such as cell phones, wearable technology (including glasses or other recording devices), or other tools to record students or staff without consent and, in some cases, share or post those recordings.

Please be aware that under Washington State law, recording others in situations where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy may be illegal. In addition, sharing or posting recordings of others without permission can result in serious consequences, including school discipline and potential legal action.

At school, unauthorized recording of students or staff is not permitted and may result in disciplinary action in accordance with district policy and the student code of conduct. Depending on the situation, this may also involve law enforcement.

We ask for your partnership in speaking with your student about responsible technology use, respect for privacy, and the importance of maintaining a safe and respectful school environment for all.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your support

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:

- **May:** Virtual – Tues, May 19, 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Please use the link to join the virtual meetings:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83232505186?pwd=3LqImHDVTNuADodDVHBhmQpeh0EfP.>

Meeting ID: 832 3250 5186

Passcode: 560867

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 1st and 2nd period classes on May 5th.

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

May 7th, and 12th

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 14th and 19th

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

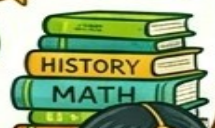
8th: 12:35 –1:05

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK!

MAY 4-8!

THANK YOU

THANK YOU, TEACHERS,
FOR INSPIRING US EVERY DAY!



Unified Parents and Athletes,

As we wrap up this season of unified soccer, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone for the tremendous efforts and support you have shown. The commitment from our athletes, parents, and community has truly made this a memorable experience. This season may have been a soft start; however, we are incredibly proud of what we've accomplished together. It's just the beginning of an exciting journey in unified soccer, and we look forward to building on this foundation with other sports to come!

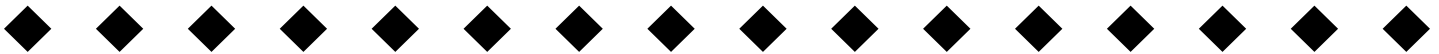
Thank you once again for your dedication and enthusiasm. Together, we're not just participants; we are a team working towards a greater cause.

Warm regards,

Coach Schroeder

& Mrs. McMillen





Volunteer Opportunities

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 will be sent to the District Office for processing.

District Contact: Amy Miller at Millera@skschools.org (360) 874-7005.



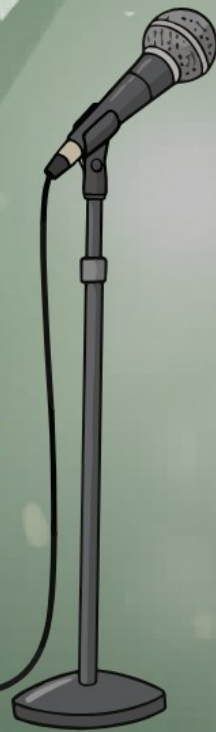
Open to all 8th graders!

Share your story in the **8th Grade Speech Contest** on “Lessons I Learned in Middle School That I Will Carry Forward.” Inspire your classmates and be heard. If you are selected your speech will be performed by you at the 8th Grade Promotion on June 9th.

Pick up a flyer in the Main Office or Library for full details on how to participate.

Timeline

- March 30: Contest opens
- April 22: Speeches due (2:45 PM)
- April 27 – May 1: Committee review
- May 4: Top 3 finalists announced
- May 11 – 15: Finalist presentations
- May 18: Winner announced
- June 9: Speech delivered at 8th Grade Promotion



¡Abierto a todos los estudiantes de 8.º grado!

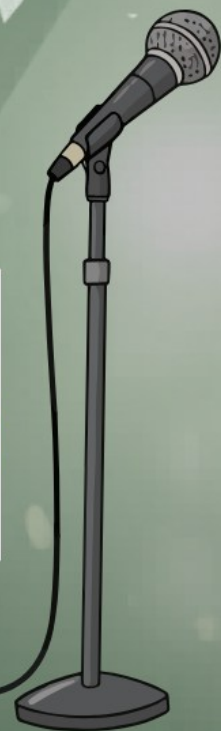
Comparte tu historia en el Concurso de Oratoria de 8.º Grado, bajo el tema: «Lecciones que aprendí en la escuela media y que llevaré conmigo». Inspira a tus compañeros y haz que tu voz sea escuchada.

Si resultas seleccionado, tú mismo pronunciarás tu discurso en la Ceremonia de Promoción de 8.º Grado, el 9 de junio.

Recoge un folleto en la Oficina Principal o en la biblioteca para obtener todos los detalles sobre cómo participar.

Cronograma

- **30 de marzo: Apertura del concurso**
- **22 de abril: Fecha límite para la entrega de discursos (2:45 p. m.)**
- **27 de abril – 1 de mayo: Revisión del comité**
- **4 de mayo: Anuncio de los 3 finalistas principales**
- **11 – 15 de mayo: Presentaciones de los finalistas**
- **18 de mayo: Anuncio del ganador**
- **9 de junio: Discurso pronunciado en la ceremonia de promoción de 8.º grado**



Cross Country Meet Schedule - 4:00 start

Date	Opponent	Place
May 6	Hawkins/CK	CK
May 13	Hawkins/FV	Poulsbo
May 20	KSS/Hawkins	Marcus
May 28	WSMS League Championships	Woodward



Football Schedule - 4:00 start

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE
May 6	Hawkins	Hawkins
May 14	Sedgwick	Marcus
May 21	Cedar	Marcus
May 28	Fairview	Fairview



Volleyball Game Schedule - 3:30 start

Date	Opponent	Place
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

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

2689 Hoover Ave SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366

360-874-7003

zuber@skschools.org