



BALDWIN-WHITEHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Whitehall Elementary School

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August 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! We are excited to begin another year of learning and look forward to partnering with you to help every child have a successful and memorable school experience.

I am Heatherlyn Wessel, principal of Whitehall Elementary, and I am honored to begin my 20th year in the Baldwin-Whitehall School District. It is a privilege to work alongside our dedicated staff as we create a safe, engaging, and supportive environment where every first and second grade student can grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

I am also pleased to welcome back our assistant principal, Melissa Ferguson. With 14 years of experience in Baldwin-Whitehall, Ms. Ferguson's commitment to students and families continues to strengthen our school community.

This year, our work will continue to reflect the district's mission: Unlocking potential, empowering learners, inspiring futures. Together, we are committed to providing meaningful learning experiences that inspire curiosity, build confidence, and prepare students for the future. As we begin the school year, we are excited to introduce several new initiatives that will enhance learning across Whitehall:

- 30-Minute Daily Recess: Students will enjoy additional time for physical activity, social interaction, and play, helping them return to the classroom refreshed and ready to learn.
- Science and Literacy Connections: Science concepts will be integrated into our CKLA Knowledge curriculum, allowing students to deepen their understanding while strengthening reading, writing, and critical thinking skills.
- Cross-Curricular Encore Experiences: Our Art, Music, Physical Education, Innovate Lab, and Cyber Hub teachers will continue to connect their instruction with classroom learning, creating engaging opportunities for students to apply their knowledge in meaningful ways.
- Wayfinder: Students will participate in age-appropriate lessons that build essential life skills, including self-awareness, empathy, resilience, collaboration, and responsible decision-making.

We know that a strong partnership between home and school is essential to student success, and we appreciate the trust you place in us each day. Thank you for being an important part of the Whitehall community. We look forward to an exciting year of learning, growth, and celebration with your family.

Warm regards,

Mrs. Heatherlyn Wessel
Principal

Important Details:

- **First Days of School:**
 - **Wednesday, August 26:** Students with last names beginning with **A-L** will attend school.
 - **Thursday, August 27:** Students with last names beginning with **M-Z** will attend school.
 - **Friday, August 28:** All first and second grade students will attend school together.
- **Arrival and Dismissal Times:**
 - Arrival: 9:00 a.m.-9:15 a.m.
 - Dismissal: 3:40 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
 - Please complete this form if you know your learner will be a car rider every day: [PikMyKid- WES Car Rider Information](#).
- **Open House:** [Click here to access the WES Open House Flyer](#)
 - Monday, August 24th 5:00 p.m.-6:45 p.m.
 - Open House is for all first and second grade families!
- All schools will continue adhering to a No Bag policy within our buildings. All visitors are required to leave bags of any kind, including purses, in their vehicles prior to entering the school.
- Suggested supply lists:
 - [First Grade Supply List](#)
 - [Second Grade Supply List](#)