

SEPTEMBER

2026

ISSUE I

THE WHITEHALL *Ramble*



NEWS, EVENTS & UPDATES FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY



Igniting Passion

EMPOWERING GROWTH



“WE ARE
RELATIONSHIP-DRIVEN,
RESOURCEFUL,
RESILIENT,
AND READY!”

IMPORTANT DATES

Mark your calendar!

Stay up to date on important events and opportunities happening at Whitehall.

SEPT

7



NO
SCHOOL

LABOR DAY

SEPT

17



PICTURE
DAY

WYHS

SEPT

29



NO
SCHOOL

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

OCT

10



HOMECOMING
DANCE

7:00PM

CLUBS AT WHITEHALL



Find Your Place



RED CROSS CLUB

Run blood drives, fundraise, learn CPR and Stop the Bleed training, and complete community service projects.

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 3:30PM
Room: 121
Advisor: Ms. Kowalewski



CULTURE CLUB

Celebrating diversity and culture amongst our staff and students.

Meetings: Wednesdays at 3:30PM
Room: 110
Advisors: Ms. Akers, Ms. Mowery, and Ms. Feliciano



KEY CLUB

To promote leadership, citizenship, character building, caring, and inclusiveness through service projects. ([Interest Form](#))

Meetings: 2nd Monday of each month at 3:30PM
Room: Library
Advisor: Ms. Glass



TECH TEAM

Teaching students how to operate and repair audio and video equipment, sound mixing, Chromebooks, and more.

Meetings: TBD
Room: Library
Advisor: Mr. Fowler



THEATRE

Explore acting, stagecraft, costumes, and performance while building confidence and creativity.

Meetings: TBD
Room: Auditorium
Advisor: Ms. Jones and Ms. Watson



SPORTS MEDICINE

Providing care for the athletes of WYHS alongside the athletic trainer. Seeking one or two student aides this fall to help. In-season athletes are not eligible. Contact Kaleb if interested.

Meetings: TBD
Room: Training Room
Advisor: Kaleb Thompson



CHESS & BOARD GAME CLUB

Students will build critical thinking and problem-solving skills while enjoying friendly competition through chess and board games.

Meetings: Thursdays at 3:30PM
Room: 203
Advisor: Mr. Wissman



MODEL UN

Students will research world issues in a specific nation, and propose solutions to issues that they then present at a state conference where it is voted on. *There is a fee for this program.

Meetings: Wednesdays at 3:30PM
Room 115
Advisor: Ms. Wilcox



NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY

The National Honors Society is an organization that recognizes junior and senior high school students for outstanding academic achievement, leadership, character, and service. Juniors and seniors with a GPA of 3.2 or higher are invited to apply for membership.

Advisor: Mr. Jordan

CLUBS AT WHITEHALL



Find Your Place



SHOW CHOIR

Students will develop singing, dancing, and overall performance skills by practicing and performing musical routines in a group setting, while building confidence, teamwork, and stage presence.
*Audition Required

Advisor: Mr. Hathaway



TRANSIT ARTS

Students have opportunities to explore different forms of art, develop their creative skills, and work alongside other student artists.

Meetings: Wednesdays at 3:30PM
Room: 112D
Advisor: Ms. Ellis



MOCK TRIAL LEGAL RAMS

Students have opportunities to explore different forms of art, develop their creative skills, and work alongside other student artists.

Meetings: Tuesdays at 3:30PM
Room: 230
Advisor: Mr. Ceasar, Mr. Leka, and Mrs. Feliciano



ACADEMIC TEAM

Description: Put your knowledge to the test! Work on building teamwork, confidence, and problem-solving skills.

Meetings: Wednesdays at 3:30PM
Room: 319
Advisor: Ms. Campbell



BOOK CLUB

Description: Love to read? Book Club is a place to discover new books, share your opinions, and connect with other students who enjoy reading.

Meetings: TBD
Room: 227
Advisor: Ms. Walker



STUDENT COUNCIL

Description: Make your voice heard! Student Council gives students the opportunity to plan events, represent their classmates, and help make our school community better.

Meetings: Wednesdays at 7:45AM
Room: 131
Advisor: Coach Sue



FLAG FOOTBALL

Description: Girls, get ready to hit the field! Girls Flag Football will be offered in the spring and is a great way to get active, build teamwork, and enjoy some friendly competition.

Advisor: Chelsea Johnson

Get Involved!



Counselor's Corner

Welcome to Counselor's Corner!

Each month, we'll share helpful tips, important dates, and resources to support our students' academic, social, and emotional growth.

We're here for you!



WHAT'S NEW

Welcome Our New Freshman Counselor!

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Ms. Shelby Hibbitt, our new freshman counselor! We're excited to have her join our school community and support our freshmen students throughout the year.

COUNSELORS

Denise Bunsey
bunseyd@wcsrams.org
Last Names (A-K)

Jocelyn Thomas
thomasj@wcsrams.org
(Last Names L-Z)

Shelby Hibbitt
browns2@wcsrams.org
(Freshmen)

We're Here to Help!

Whether you need someone to talk to, help with a problem, or just some guidance, your school counselors are here for you.

UPCOMING EVENT!

10th Grade Career Center Visits

Information Going Home to Parents on September 2nd

Starting on September 2nd, 10th grade students will have the opportunity to sign up to visit Eastland and Fairfield Career Center or Satellite Program.

Field Trip Dates will be on the following dates:

Eastland Career Center: Friday, Oct. 30th

Fairfield Career Center: Friday, Nov. 6th

Satellite: Friday, Nov. 6th

In addition to registering online, students must return their signed parent permission form by Friday, September 23rd (Students will receive permission forms on September 2nd).

In addition, to having a signed permission form, students must meet the following criteria that will be collected at 7AM on the day before each field trip in order to attend the field trip.

- 1. No failing grades**
- 2. 90% Attendance Rate or higher**
- 3. No more than 1 OSS assignment or 3 ISS assignments.**

MEET THE FRESHMAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR *MS. HIBBITT*



ABOUT ME:

Hello Rams! I am Ms. Hibbitt, the freshman school counselor! I am excited to help our freshmen adjust to high school academically, socially, and emotionally. My goal is for students to feel supported, connected, and confident as they begin their high school journeys. I believe students thrive when families and schools work together, so please reach out any time!

WAYS I CAN SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT:

- Classroom lessons
- Executive-functioning skills
- Social-emotional skills
- Small group counseling
- Brief, short-term individual counseling
- Connecting students and families to outside counseling resources
- Conference & consultation
- And so much more!

EDUCATION:

- M.A. in Counselor Education, School Counseling | Ohio State University
- B.A. in Psychology | Ohio State University

FUN FACT:

When I am not supporting students, I am crafting, finding local goods at farmers markets, hanging out with my two cats Zonk & Trout, or taking a walk!

FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME:

 (614)-417-5117

 browns2@wcsrams.org

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH ME HERE:

www.calendly.com/wyhs-school-counselor-shibbitt





CLASS ADVISORS

Ram Pride.

Come to meetings to represent your class at school events, plan and support grade-level activities, fundraise for future celebrations and events, and build a strong sense of community throughout each class.

GRADE 9	ADVISOR:	COMMUNICATION:	MEETINGS:
	PEGGY RICKMAN KAYLEA CRAWSHAW	- Talking Points - Email - Freshman Google Classroom	Room 200
GRADE 10	ADVISOR:	COMMUNICATION:	MEETINGS:
	PHOEBE LIGHTFOOT PATRICK MONET	- Talking Points - Email - Sophomore Google Classroom	Room 302
GRADE 11	ADVISOR:	COMMUNICATION:	MEETINGS:
	NICOLE DURKIN	- Talking Points - Email - Junior Google Classroom	Room 109
GRADE 12	ADVISOR:	COMMUNICATION:	MEETINGS:
	PAM GLASS JESSICA WATSON	- Talking Points - Email - Senior Google Classroom - Live Doc	Room 106



Class of 2027

SENIOR EVENTS

**FINISH
STRONG.
MAKE IT
COUNT.
RAM
PRIDE.**

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR SENIOR YEAR

September 1, 2026	Senior Class Officer Meeting at 3:30 PM in the Glass Office
October 7, 2026	Homecoming Parade and Bonfire, 6:00–8:00 PM
October 10, 2026	Homecoming Dance, 7:00–10:00 PM
November 30, 2026	Deadline to submit a senior photo for the yearbook. This year, seniors may submit their own photos. View the senior photo requirements .
December 4, 2026	Senior quotes are due. Maximum length: 25 words. Seniors who do not submit a quote will have one written for them by a yearbook staff member.
December 5, 2026	Senior Craft Show, 10:00 AM–3:00 PM
February 1, 2027	Last day to order a cap and gown through Jostens . For the cap, gown, and tassel only, use the provided order link or call 1-800-JOSTENS.
February 15, 2027	Final day to order a senior T-shirt. Cost: \$15. Pay with cash or through the provided link.
March 1, 2027	Last day to request a name correction in Infinite Campus for your diploma. Complete the name correction form .
March 21, 2027	Handshake Form due. Submit the Handshake Form .

SENIOR SUNRISE

Starting our senior year together ♡



Here's to
the beginning...



CLASS OF 2027

FUNDRAISERS

Make a Difference !!!

SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS

CURRENT FUNDRAISERS

ONGOING

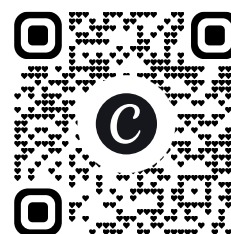
DOMINO'S SLICE THE PRICE

Card Fundraiser

Unlimited buy 1 get 1 free pizza!

- Sale starts **September 10th, 2026**
- Cards are only **\$20**
- Cards last until June 30, 2027
- Purchase your card through the link below or scan the QR code.

<https://store.dominos.cards/56200>



Thank You! ❤️



ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Regular school attendance is one of the biggest keys to student success. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Build strong reading skills
- Earn higher grades
- Graduate on time

What does “chronic absence” mean?

- In Ohio, a student is considered chronically absent if they miss 10% or more of the school year—for any reason (excused or unexcused).
- That’s just 2-3 days each month!

What’s changing in Ohio?

- Starting September 30, 2025, Ohio law will shift from focusing mostly on truancy to early support for students at risk of chronic absence.
- Schools will work more closely with families to help students improve attendance before it becomes a serious problem.

Ohio’s Goal

The state has set a big goal: cut chronic absence rates in half by the 2028-2029 school year. This means schools, families, and communities will all work together to help students stay in school and succeed.

Stay In The Game

WCS is proud to be part of the Stay in the Game! Attendance Network. The mission is to prioritize attendance by connecting its users to resources aimed at tackling chronic absenteeism.



Every day in school matters. Missing just a few days each month can put students behind, but working together, we can make sure all students have the best chance to learn and grow.

For more information, please visit:

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Attendance-Support>

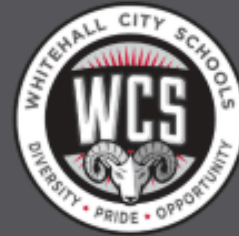
CELL PHONE POLICY

According to Ohio state law, student cell phones must remain off and stored throughout the entire school day. The goal of this law is to create a distraction-free learning environment. Need to reach your child? As we did before we had cell phones, please plan to call the school office. We are ready to respond and will get messages to your children.

The attached [Cell Phone Policy](#) shares the full policy.

Whitehall City Schools NEW CELL PHONE POLICY

Updated 7-11-24



What are personal communication devices (PCDs)?

PCDs include cell phones, smartphones, computers, tablets, e-readers, smartwatches, and other web-enabled devices.



Why is WCS creating a PCD policy?

State expectation that all school districts establish a policy regulating student cell phone use during school hours. The goal of the policies are to reduce distractions, peer pressure, negative influences from social media, and inattentiveness in class and during the school day.

What is the biggest change?

All devices must be turned off and kept in lockers or other designated spaces during the school day.



When can students use their PCDs?

Students can continue to use their PCDs before and after school. PCDs must be powered off and stored out of sight during school hours unless approved by a teacher or administrator.

Are there exceptions for using PCDs during school hours?

Yes, with prior approval from the building principal, or if specified in a student's IEP or 504 Plan, a student may keep their PCD on. However, general use during school hours, including field trips, is prohibited unless specifically authorized.



How can parents reach their children during the school day?

The best way for parents to contact their children during school hours is by calling the school office:

C. Ray Williams ECC	614.417.5680
Kae Avenue Elementary	614.417.5600
Etna Road Elementary	614.417.5400
Beechwood Elementary	614.417.5300
Rosemore Middle School	614.417.5200
Whitehall Yearling High School	614.417.5100

THE RAMS WAY FAMILY GUIDE

R



Communicate with Respect and Kindness

- Speak to staff, students, and other families in a courteous and professional manner.
- Assume positive intent and seek clarification before drawing conclusions.
- Model respectful language and behavior for children both in person and online.

Be a Partner

- Ask questions and seek understanding.
- Allow staff reasonable time to investigate concerns, gather information, and respond.
- Work together to support student success.
- Schedule appointments to meet with staff.

A



Address Concerns Responsibly

- Contact the person closest to the concern first (teacher, counselor, coach, etc.).
- Follow established school procedures for resolving concerns.
- Share concerns directly with school personnel rather than through social media or community gossip.

Support Student Accountability

- Encourage your child to attend school regularly, arrive on time, and be prepared to learn.
- Support school expectations and help your child take ownership of their actions, learning, and growth.

M



Partner in Your Child's Success

- Maintain regular communication with teachers and school staff.
- Participate in conferences, school events, and other opportunities to support learning.
- Celebrate effort, growth, and achievement.

Focus on Solutions

- Work collaboratively with staff to identify solutions when challenges arise.
- Keep conversations centered on what is best for students.
- Approach concerns with a problem-solving mindset.

S



Support a Safe Learning Environment

- Follow school procedures for visitors, arrival, dismissal, and student supervision.
- Share safety concerns promptly with school staff.
- Reinforce school expectations for behavior, citizenship, and digital responsibility at home.

Work Together as One Community

- Encourage children to report concerns to trusted adults.
- Help create an environment where all students feel welcomed, valued, and safe.
- Work together to support decisions that prioritize student safety and well-being.

The RAMS Way is our shared commitment to creating a respectful, accountable, motivated, and safe learning community for every student.



Student *SUCCESS* Store

Whitehall-Yearling High School is proud to offer our Student Success Center, a resource where students can access free hygiene products, school supplies, food, and clothing. This space is open to all students as a way to support their needs and help them succeed both in and out of the classroom.

If you do not want your student to use the Student Success Center, please complete and return the Opt-Out Form. Unless an Opt-Out Form is returned, all students will be able to use the center as needed.

Our goal is to ensure every Ram has what they need to feel prepared and supported at school.

Use the link below to access the English Opt-Out Form:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18OIMNKljHqbYY22ROq9QWoTDoUxpVgVS/view?usp=sharing>

Use the link below to access the Spanish Opt-Out Form:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11M5SrzdntuRTHDQMtxmae7uiqyKJyVpX/view?usp=sharing>





PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS HOUSE BILL 8



As we begin the new school year, we want to make you aware of Ohio's new Parents' Bill of Rights law (House Bill 8). This law outlines when schools must notify families about specific topics, such as sexuality-related instruction, significant changes in a student's well-being, and school-based health services. It also protects your right to review instructional materials. We remain committed to partnering with you and keeping student well-being at the heart of our decisions.

The attached [*Quick Guide to HB 8*](#) shares what you can expect moving forward.

Whitehall City Schools – Quick Guide to HB 8 Effective April 2025 | Board Policy IGBLA



Ohio's Parents' Bill of Rights affirms parents/guardians' fundamental right to make decisions about their child's upbringing, education, and care. Here's what it means for Whitehall City Schools.

1. Sexuality Content in Instruction

- K-3: No classroom instruction that includes sexuality content.
- Grades 4-12: Any sexuality content must be age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate.
- Parents/guardians must be given advance notice and can review materials before instruction.
- Parents/guardians have the right to opt their child out of sexuality content instruction.

Sexuality content = oral/written instruction, presentations, images, or descriptions of sexual concepts or gender ideology. Does not include topics required by law like STI prevention, child sexual abuse prevention, sexual violence prevention, or incidental references.

2. Notification of Substantial Changes in Student Health or Well-Being

- Parents/guardians will be promptly notified if there is a substantial change in their child's:
 - Services (including counseling)
 - Monitoring related to mental, emotional, or physical health
 - The school's ability to provide a safe and supportive environment
- This includes:
 - Major academic changes
 - Serious illness, injury, or psychological trauma
 - Harassment, intimidation, or bullying as defined by state law
 - Request to identify as a gender different from biological sex
 - Suicidal thoughts, persistent depression, severe anxiety, or other mental health issues

3. Parental Consent for Health Services

- Parents/guardians will get an Annual Notice of the health services we offer (physical, mental, behavioral) in the Student Handbook.
- You can decline any service.
- Consent is not required for: emergencies, first aid, unanticipated minor health needs, or IEP/504 services.

4. Parent Concern Procedure

- File a written concern with the principal or assistant principal.
- A response will be provided within 30 days.
- Parents/guardians can appeal to the Superintendent, then to the Board of Education.

Our Commitment

WCS will:

- Follow the law
- Communicate promptly and respectfully
- Keep student well-being at the center of every decision

For more information, visit our website or scan the QR code.





WYHS SAFETY PROTOCOLS



IN AN EMERGENCY TAKE ACTION



BE ALERT! See something, hear something, say something.

- Exterior doors locked at all times
- All visitors enter through main office, IDs checked, and visitor passes given
- Learning, instruction, and work as usual with movement allowed throughout the building



STAY PUT! Clear the halls. Stay in room or area.

Students

- Return to or stay in assigned area
- Stay until "All Clear" is announced
- Continue learning

Uses: To investigate or resolve an event such as a medical or maintenance situation. Movement restricted inside building.

Adults

- Close and lock the door
- Account for students and adults
- Continue instruction and work



SECURE THE PERIMETER! Get inside. Lock exterior doors.

Students

- Come and stay inside.
- Continue learning
- No entry or exit from building until "All Clear"

Uses: Police investigating a situation outside the building. No one enters or exits.

Adults

- Bring everyone indoors
- Lock outside doors and windows
- Be aware and take attendance
- Continue instruction and work



LOCKDOWN! Doors locked, lights off, stay quiet, and out of sight.

Students

- Get out of sight and stay quiet
- Do not open the door
- Do not release via PA
- Follow all safety protocols

Uses: Direct threat to people inside the building.

Adults

- Check hall and move everyone to lockable rooms quickly
- Lock door & turn out lights
- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Follow safety training protocols



EVACUATE! Exit building. Go to assigned area.

Students

- Leave belongings behind
- Go to assigned area
- Follow instructions

Uses: Initiated by fire alarm or PA for fire or other health risk.

Adults

- Lead students to evacuation location
- Account for students and adults
- Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults



TAKE SHELTER! Follow hazard and safety protocols.

Students

- Follow appropriate safety protocol:

Hazard	Protocol
Tornado	Evacuate to shelter
Hazmat	Close all windows
Earthquake	Drop, cover, and hold

Adults

- Lead safety protocol
- Account for students and adults
- Notify if missing or injured students

Helpful **LINKS**



School Calendar



Cafeteria Menu



Family Resources



Handbook



Dress Code



Cell Phone Policy

