

SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER IMPORTANT DATES

Box Tops

Accepted all year long (turn in to your reading teacher)

Boy's Basketball Tryouts

All tryouts are from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

6th Grade: 10/10 & 10/13

7th Grade: 10/15 & 10/16

8th Grade: 10/17 & 10/20

Boy's Basketball Games

10/27: 6th Grade Game @ Lane

10/28: Home Game vs. Frank Lloyd Wright

10/29: Home Game vs. West Milwaukee

Parent Teacher Conferences

10/14 & 10/23 from 4:30-8:00 p.m.

Cross Country Meets

10/4: Warrior Invite @ Greenfield Park

10/6: Burlington Invite @ Burlington

10/8: Waukesha Invite @ Minooka Park

10/17: WLC Challenge @ Greenfield Park

Homework Club Details

Mon/ Tues/ Thur/ Fri - 3:30 - 4:15
(Whitman Library)

Wednesday - 2:30 - 4:00
(Listen for Announcements)

Whitman News

Message from the Administrators

Dear Parents,

Welcome to another school year. We are excited about the many opportunities we will have to work with your child(ren) during the coming year! Whitman has many wonderful things to offer our students! Our teachers are committed to helping each student achieve their greatest potential in three key areas: academic, social, and emotional growth.

This year we have a number of building wide programs we are implementing. Our first focus is literacy. We are working to provide students with experiences that will enable them to become better readers. If students can't read at the highest possible level, we know they will not reach their potential. We are asking students and families to read thirty minutes an evening outside of the school day. Parents we need you help in making this happen! Read with your child and take time to engage in discussion about the content of the material read. This simple task will help your child become a better reader!

We are also focused this year on our theme of "One Team". Our building goal is to work as "One Team" to benefit all of our students. Our staff of teachers, administrators, administrative assistants, custodial staff and educational assistants are committed as "One Team" to provide an exceptional school experience for your child! Looking forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,

Jeff Keranen and John Kellerman

After School Supervision

Students are expected to walk home, take the bus, or be picked up by 2:45PM on Wednesdays and by 3:45PM every other day of the week. This is essential for ensuring the safety of our students as we do not have adult supervision outside after these times. Consider having your child join Homework Club if timely pick-up of your child is a challenge.

School/ District Initiatives

Whitman, along with all secondary schools in the Wauwatosa School district is making the shift to Standards Based Grading, otherwise known as Grading for Learning. The purpose of this grading initiative is to help your child's teachers identify and communicate your child's specific strengths and areas for improvement. This should help your child and you better understand how they're progressing in their learning and what they need to do to improve.

The Grading for Learning Model has an impact on how the PowerSchool Gradebook will look to you. The grades (or scores) in a course will no longer be organized by assessments (tests, projects, quizzes, etc.). They will be organized by benchmarks. Benchmarks are those important skills and concepts that teachers have agreed all students should master in a given course or at a given grade level. Organizing grades by benchmarks helps you understand how your child is progressing in mastering essential skills and concepts. Also, the grades that your child will receive on assessments will come from a four-point, equal-interval grading scale. We're using this scale because it aligns with four-point rubrics that teachers use to describe varied levels of student performance.

Please note that students will still receive a letter grade (A, A-, B+, B, B-, etc.) for each of their courses. There will be no changes to GPAs (grade point averages), high school transcripts, or the college admissions process.

Additional information can be found on our website by clicking on the "For Parents" tab and then clicking on the "Grading for Learning" tab.

Did You Know?

Whitman Middle School was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Education Foundation of Wauwatosa (EFW).

Whitman Middle School will use the grant funds to teach information literacy through a rich selection of books, which will motivate student learning. Once students have been taught some basic processes for working with informational texts, they will choose books from this nonfiction collection and work towards becoming more fluent at reading, identifying evidence to support a viewpoint or statement, and increasing their background knowledge on a variety of subjects.

