

Bobcat Tales

Whiteford Agricultural Schools
6655 Consear Road
Ottawa Lake, MI 49267

CAR-RT PRESORT
BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Nonprofit Org.
Permit #7

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Whiteford School District
Ottawa Lake, MI 49267



2019-2020 SCHOOL HOURS / CALENDAR

Building	Starting Time	Ending Time	Early Dismissal Time
Elementary	7:55 AM	3:08 PM	11:10 AM
Middle/High School	7:55 AM	2:55 PM	11:00 AM

Oct. 31 EARLY DISMISSAL

Nov. 6-7 EARLY DISMISSAL

Nov. 6-7 Parent/Teacher Conf.

Nov. 27 EARLY DISMISSAL
(Thanksgiving Break)

Nov. 28-29 NO SCHOOL
(Thanksgiving Break)

Dec. 23-
Jan. 3 NO SCHOOL
(Christmas / Winter Break)
Spring Break)

Jan. 15-17 Semester Exams.

Jan. 20 NO SCHOOL
(Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Feb. 25 EARLY DISMISSAL

Apr. 3 EARLY DISMISSAL
(Spring Break)

Apr. 6-10 NO SCHOOL
(Spring Break)

Apr 14 State Testing

May 25 NO SCHOOL
(Memorial Day)

June 3-5 Semester Exams

June 4-5* EARLY DISMISSAL

June 5* LAST DAY of
SCHOOL

* pending weather delays/
closings

* Parents are reminded that additional days may be added to the school year should we exceed our state limitation on number of days/ hours cancelled or delayed during the school year.

Food Pantry Dates / Hours

Crossroads Church

1st Thursday of Month
4:30 PM—6:30 PM

St. Michael Lutheran Church

2nd Saturday of Month
10 AM—11:30 AM

Zion Lutheran Church

2nd/4th Tuesday of Month
9 AM—1 PM



This newsletter is also available on the district's website: www.whiteford.k12.mi.us October 2019

Whiteford Agricultural Schools Bond Proposal

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

WHERE TO VOTE:

St. Michael Lutheran Church
5790 W Temperance Rd.
Ottawa Lake, MI 49267

Note: Summerfield Township residents in the Whiteford School District will vote at Summerfield Twp., 26 Saline St., Petersburg, MI

WHEN TO VOTE:

Tuesday, November 5 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE:

Visit www.michigan.gov/sos or visit the county clerk



Learn more about the proposal in this special edition of Bobcat Tales!



*Superintendent
of Schools*
VALERIE ORR

Board of Education

President
Tracy Malhoit

Vice President
Dave Dixon

Secretary
Christine Bischoff

Treasurer
Shane Hillard

Trustees
Mike Iott
Kristi Mock
Janelle Young

Upcoming
Board of
Education Meetings
6:00 PM

November 11, 2019
December 9, 2019

High School Library

**District
Mission / Vision**

*Engaged ...
in our learning
Encouraged ...
by our community
Empowered ...
for our world*

We are Whiteford!

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE...

The school year is in full swing and our Bobcats are **Engaged, Encouraged, and Empowered!** We had an outstanding start to the school year and the thanks goes to the dedicated support staff and teaching staff who made sure everything was ready for the students to return. The new elementary drop-off process is working like a charm and students are arriving to school on time and ready to learn. Thank you to our parents for all of your assistance with these changes.

The new elementary and MS/HS schedule is fully implemented and contains a dedicated intervention and enrichment time for students called W.I.N., which stands for WHAT I NEED! This dedicated time allows teachers the opportunity to provide 1-on-1 support to students who are struggling with concepts AND enrichment opportunities for students who are performing beyond the grade level skills. At Whiteford, we understand that each student has individual needs and has different passions. We are dedicated to providing a personalized learning experience where every student is maximizing their own potential.

At the MS/HS, we have also instituted a **Bobcat Family Time**, also known as Seminar, as part of the new schedule. This is different than the original Seminar concept that was in place when the MS/HS was previously on the Block schedule. Bobcat Family Time is only 25 minutes per day, but meets each day. The "families" will stay the same for 7th-8th grade as well as through 9th-12th grades. Family time teachers are their to support students, provide mentorship, and help them navigate the new schedule, including WIN time. Family time teachers are also a great place for parents to start when needing to talk to someone about their child., but not knowing who to call.

It will take us time to master our new schedule and work out all of the kinks. This concept of dedicated WIN time is new to many of our staff members, and not usually a component built into a school's schedule. It has taken several years of planning to get us here as well as an investment by the school district to hire additional staff to support this concept. Once again, thank you to our Bobcat families for your patience and support as we work through any unforeseen issues. We are committed to making sure this transition is a success, and ensuring every Bobcat is **Engaged in their Learning, Encouraged by their Community, and Empowered for their Future!**

If you have any questions about the new schedule in either of our buildings, please feel free to reach out to your building Principal or contact myself at (734) 856-1443 ext. 101. We appreciate hearing from our families if you have a concern. Please also don't hesitate to share the positive things as well, because I love to recognize our staff and share in their celebrations.

Have a great year Bobcats!!!

Sincerely,

Valerie Orr



OCTOBER KICKS OFF COLLEGE APP MONTH

Submitted by Jason Mensing, Director of Student Advancement

October has become College application month across the state of Michigan. This is done to emphasize the importance of post-secondary planning for our high school Seniors. The next steps for our graduates includes numerous pathways such as, but not limited to, attending 2 year or 4 year Colleges and Universities, going into the military, attending trade school, or entering the work force. It is our objective that regardless of the pathway, we work with each student to develop a plan that they have a passion to pursue. During the month, we will encourage all of our staff to wear college or trade school apparel on each Wednesday in an effort to increase conversation. We have welcomed different College and Universities admissions officers, military recruiters, and trade school representatives to meet with and discuss their programs with our students. We will work with our Seniors on a fee-waiver Friday to fill out an application to a school they have interest in also while helping each Senior get their FAFSA process started. In addition, we will offer a FAFSA night. FAFSA is the application process that is completed by families to identify the amount of Federal Financial Aid that students can qualify for. All senior parents are encouraged to attend as a representative discusses the FAFSA process and answers any questions that families may have.

Third Grade Team Work



Third Graders began the year getting to know each other a little better and working on their team building skills. As technology becomes more and more prevalent in our society, it becomes even more important for students learn how to develop cooperative skills. Their task was to build a pyramid with paper cups without letting ANY part of their bodies touch the cups. They could only use a rubber band with four strings tied to it, and each person had to be holding onto one of the strings at all times.

It was a lot of fun to see and hear them problem-solving, communicating, and collaborating to accomplish their goal. Needless to say, the excitement and pride on their faces as they completed the towers was priceless!



Nurturing a Love of Nature

Kaia Rasor loves nature. She and her cousin, Grant Rasor, both third graders, have been watching caterpillars make chrysalises and turn into butterflies with their grandfather this summer. We were lucky that they had some late bloomers and they were kind enough to bring them into our third grade classroom so we could watch this amazing process (which just happens to be part of third grade's NGSS). We were so fortunate to be able to see all but the egg stage of the life cycle. So far we have released 3 of the 5 butterflies and are waiting anxiously for the other two to emerge. The timing has been fabulous because everything has happened during the school hours and not overnight! What an exciting way to learn first-hand the metamorphosis that a monarch butterfly goes through. We can't thank Kaia, Grant, and their grandfather enough for allowing us to have this wonderful opportunity.



Morning Story Time!

By Michaela Shepherd



Picture books and story time go together like peanut butter and jelly, and having that time to listen to a great story is always a fun time! Mrs. Shelly DeVantier, Whiteford Elementary Reading Specialist, has begun to host a morning read aloud to students who are waiting for school to begin on a couple of mornings every week in the elementary cafeteria. She has partnered with the Bedford Library to provide fun and enriching stories for the students.

This activity will help to promote continued literacy lessons and engagement for our students. Listening to the story, learning new vocabulary words and being exposed to a variety of genres will support our students and their learning. During these story filled mornings, students are invited to join her as she interacts with the characters in the book, and the students as they begin their day.

Additionally, students are invited to browse our Free “Pop-Up” book store where they are each allowed to take a book of their choosing to read on their own. The kids are so excited about each of these events, and this will help lead to higher motivation for reading and learning.



Whiteford elementary school is continuing to encourage family engagement by sponsoring family activity nights this year. The first event of the year is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16 and will include a story read aloud, activities that go along with the ideas and concepts in the book, snacks for the participants, and a book for each child to take home that evening. Please look for more information about this event as well as three others that are slated for the remainder of the school year! Event flyers will come home with your child and also be posted in the Elementary weekly news blast.



Emily Buck '20, Kaylee Beiber '20,, Leah Donnelly '21, and Kenzie Sybert '21 hold their phones up outside as they try to get a photos to submit for yearbook class.

Go Bobcats! Looking out at the football field, Payton Williams '21 waits for the next cheer. Throughout the home game against Schoolcraft, the Varsity cheerleaders showcased their school spirit by performing stunts for the student section



MS/HS WELCOMES NEW DEAN OF STUDENTS & ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

After thoughtful consideration, Mrs. Stephanie Cavanaugh decided to take a new position closer to home. We thank her for her service in helping us develop the Dean of Student Services/Career Coach position. With her departure, we were able to find an outstanding replacement and we are more than excited to welcome Mr. Ken Groch as our new Dean of Students!!



Ken Groch I have lived in Whiteford for 20 years, and have two daughters, both Whiteford graduates. I am the proud grandfather of two grandsons, one of which is in first grade at Whiteford. My wife Linda, a third grade teacher at the elementary and I have been married for 30 years. I am a retired 31 year veteran teacher who spent the last 28 years teaching middle school science at Springfield Schools. Last year I had the great opportunity to work as a Aide in our elementary building with the fifth grade. My undergraduate teaching degree comes from Siena Heights University, and my masters in Curriculum and Instruction is from the University of Toledo. In addition to teaching, I have been a Varsity and Middle School football coach, Head baseball coach, Middle School boys/girls basketball and track coach. I am a big fan of the Buckeyes!

We are excited to welcome back a former Bobcat!! Mrs. Luzier previously worked at Whiteford Elementary and is now overjoyed to become a Bobcat again in the MS/HS building! We welcome the entire Luzier family!

Malinda Luzier: I have taken the role of administrative assistant to the director of student advancement and athletics in the middle/high school building. I previously worked at Whiteford Elementary from 2012-2015, our family is very excited to be back in the Whiteford Community. I am most excited about reconnecting with all the kids and parents I worked with in the elementary and meeting all of the new! Myself along with my husband Marcus and son Mason can often be found at the football field, basketball court or baseball diamond. Mason is enjoying being a bobcat as he participated in WRC baseball this summer and is currently on the flag football team, he is a fourth grader in Ms. Daniels class. When not at sporting events we love to travel and hike. We recently hiked to the top of Mount Rogers, the highest point in Virginia!



To those who have moved on to other adventures—
Stephanie Cavanaugh, Stephannie Cherry, Jennifer Fleck, Nathan Fleshman, Alyssa Wacławski, and Shane Wellman!
We thank you for your years of service and wish you the best!

HOW TO CONTACT US

MAIN PHONE

734.856.1443

PHONE PROMPTS

4—Elem. Office
5—MS/HS Office
Athletic Dept.
Dean of Students
6—Transportation
6—Superintendent/
Business Office/
Maintenance

ADMINISTRATION / SUPPORT SERVICES

Superintendent
Valerie “Val” Orr
ext. 101

MS/HS Principal
Kelli Tuller
ext. 102

Elementary Principal
Michaela Shepherd
ext. 104

Director of Student Advancement/AD
Jason Mensing
ext. 103

Dean of Student Services/Career Coach
Ken Groch
ext. 122

District Counselor
Jennifer Head
ext. 309

Director of Transportation, Buildings & Grounds
Charlie Butz
ext. 107

Director of Finance & Business Services
Michelle Strick
ext. 105

OFFICE FAXES

Elementary Office
734-856-4724

MS/HS Office
734-856-2564

Superintendent / Business Office
734-854-6463

GEARING UP FOR WINTER SPORTS SEASON

Submitted by Jason Mensing, Athletic Director

As we work through our Fall Sports Season our teams have all worked hard and shown tremendous improvement. We are excited about tournament time which is right around the corner. Our Cross Country Regional this year is hosted by Hudson on October 26th, while our Volleyball team will be at Summerfield on the week of November 4th through the 9th. While Football is required to qualify for their MHSAA post season play by winning 6 games, sites are determined after teams have qualified.



Right around the corner will be the start of the winter sports season, The Varsity girls basketball program will be coached again by Mr. Les Manley. Their JV/Varsity season can begin practice on November 6th and the middle school girls season will begin practice on January 11th. Mr. Nick Abalos will enter his second year as our Varsity boys basketball coach. The practices for the JV/Varsity teams can begin on November 18th, while the Middle School boys can start on October 29th.

An important reminder is that all participants must have a **completed physical** on file to be able to try out for each team prior to the start of practice. We look forward to a fine finish to the fall sports season and an exciting start to our winter programs.

ATTENTION CLASS OF 2020

Just a reminder that Senior pictures and baby pictures are due to Mrs. Delmotte in Room 29 by Friday, October 25th for inclusion in the 2019-2020 yearbook. If your student has not had their senior pictures taken yet, you can email Mrs. Delmotte at delmotte@whiteford.k12.mi.us to make arrangements for one of our yearbook photographers to take a photo for you. Additional information about picture specifications can be found on the district's website.

Whiteford Parents' Association (WPA) News

Who can believe by the time you're reading this, we'll already be well into our second month of school for this new year?! Those first couple of months always seem to fly by, with so much newness to experience and routines to get back into. The WPA kicked off this new year with our first meeting on September 17th, and welcomed some new faces. This was a fun, action-packed meeting as we laid out our activities and ideas for the upcoming school year and brainstormed how to continually improve on the experiences we help deliver to our little Bobcats.

We jumped right into things, as we do every year, with our Otis Spunkmeyer cookie dough sale. Cookies will be delivered to the school for pickup on November 12th, and we need some willing and able parents or grandparents to help that day. Opportunities to help start as early as noon through 6:00PM, and we appreciate any amount of time you can donate to helping sort orders, carry boxes to people's cars, and call to remind people to come get their cookies!



On November 2nd, the WPA will be hosting its annual craft and vendor show in the high school gym from 10AM-3PM. This fun event has been growing every year and now boasts around 40 crafters and vendors. It's the perfect opportunity to get a start on (or finish up!) your Christmas shopping while supporting local small businesses and gifting your friends and family

with unique items you would never be able to find in the store. Interested in being a vendor at this event? Tables are \$35 and you can register by contacting Bernadette Mercurio at Bernadette.Mercurio8@gmail.com.

Rounding out our holiday festivities, Santa's Workshop will be taking place in the elementary school the week of December 9th. We need many, many hands to take the place of Santa's elves and help make this a magical experience for the kids. This may be their first experience shopping and choosing gifts for their friends and family, and it is one of the events they most look forward to throughout the year. You can assist by helping children pick out gifts, stocking the shelves, and wrapping presents, among other things. If you can find a couple of hours that week to volunteer your time, you will be rewarded by seeing the excitement on the children's faces on their shopping day! And, not only are we looking for volunteers for this week- we are looking for a very special person or group of people to step up and take over this event for next year. The person who has overseen it for many years is ready to move onto new things, and we need a replacement to ensure that this tradition is able to continue.

Upcoming meetings are October 15th, November 19th, and January 21st in the elementary cafeteria. Please remember that we welcome any parent or grandparent who would like to be more involved in the school and all the events the WPA provides. If you would like to be more involved but can't make the meetings, feel free to email us at whiteford.parents@gmail.com. Many of our volunteer opportunities take place outside of normal school/work hours, so there are plenty of ways for you to be involved. Want to come to the meetings but just can't remember? Email us with your phone number and you can get an email and/or text reminder prior to the meeting.





Please enjoy these pictures of some of our W.I.N. sessions including Robotics, Cartoon Network, Programming, and Queen's Revenge!!

W.I.N for the Win!

At Whiteford we are winning!! W.I.N. stands for “What I Need” and is the dedicated time during the school day for students to receive additional help, or be challenged beyond the grade level expectations. Currently, teachers are preparing for the second cycle of WIN; each cycle is 6 weeks in duration. W.I.N. was put into place because our school culture is firmly rooted in “Failure is NOT an Option” for our students, and we will do whatever we can to partner with students as well as parents to provide the support they need. We also believe that students who are ready for advanced coursework should receive it, and that we need to personalize our instruction to help students reach their optimal potential. For 2nd cycle, teams of teachers (we call them PLCs) are meeting to review student work and determine, as a team, which students need additional support and what specific support do they need. The teams are then developing curriculum for W.I.N. aligned those needs. The teams are also developing “enrichment/extension” curriculum for the students who are ready to move ahead. Seminar, also know as Bobcat Family Time, teachers are using the recommendations from the PLC team to schedule their Seminar students into their W.I.N. courses for second cycle. We are asking for parent support in helping us share this vision for success and encourage your children to take advantage of the support that is being offered. This type of additional support is not common among other school districts as it comes at a higher cost to the district. If you have a MS/HS students, they may come home complaining about their W.I.N. selections, but please know and help your children understand that the decision was made by a team of people dedicated to your child’s best interest. We hope that your children come home excited about their W.I.N. classes and that this isn’t an issue at all. First cycle has been a huge success and most students are adapting well. We see this as a sign of continued success! Any questions regarding W.I.N. should be directed to the building Principal.

Preorder your Yearbook now!

Whiteford High School yearbook are now on sale for \$45, with your student's name stamped on the cover for an additional \$9. The price increases to \$55 on November 2nd, so reserve your copy now! To pay with cash or check, see Mrs. Delmotte in Room 29. To pay with a credit card, visit www.yearbookforever.com. If you are interested in purchasing a yearbook for your student as a gift for the holidays, yearbook gift certificates are available from Mrs. Delmotte!

2019-2020 MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

dates and times subject to change without notice

J. V. / Varsity Boys Basketball

Tues	12/10	Blissfield	Home ...	5:30 PM
Fri	12/13	Bedford	Away ...	5:30 PM
Tues	12/17	Ida	Away ...	5:30 PM
Thurs	12/19	Britton-Deerfield	Home ...	5:30 PM
Fri	12/27	Emmanuel Christian Tourn	Away	TBA
Sat	12/28	Emmanuel Christian Tourn	Away	TBA
Thurs	1/9	Summerfield	Home ...	5:30 PM
Thurs	1/16	Madison	Away ...	5:30 PM
Tues	1/21	Morenci	Away ...	5:30 PM
Thurs	1/23	Sand Creek (JV DH)	Home ...	5:30 PM
(Boys/Girls JV DH ~ boys play first)				
Fri	1/24	Sand Creek (V DH)	Away ...	7:00 PM
(Girl/Boys Varsity DH ~ girls play first)				
Tues	1/28	Clinton	Home ...	5:30 PM
Fri	1/31	Britton-Deerfield	Away ...	5:30 PM
Fri	2/7	Summerfield	Away ...	5:30 PM
Tues	2/11	Emmanuel Baptist	Home ...	5:30 PM
Fri	2/14	Madison	Home ...	5:30 PM
Fri	2/21	Morenci	Home ...	5:30 PM
(Miss Whiteford announced)				
Tues	2/25	Sand Creek	Home ...	5:30 PM
Fri	2/28	Clinton	Away ...	5:30 PM
Tues	3/03	Jefferson	Home ...	5:30 PM
Thurs	3/05	Dundee	Away ...	5:30 PM

Middle School Boys Basketball

Mon	11/18	Britton-Deerfield	Away ...	4:30 PM
Wed	11/20	Summerfield	Home ...	4:30 PM
Sat	11/23	Blissfield (7th grade Round Robin) ...	Home ...	8:00 PM
Sat	11/23	Blissfield (8th grade Round Robin) ...	Away ...	9:00 PM
Mon	11/25	Madison	Away ...	4:30 PM
Mon	12/03	Sand Creek	Away ...	4:30 PM
Wed	12/04	Summerfield	Away ...	4:30 PM
Sat	12/07	Madison (Madison Tourn)	Away	TBA
Wed	12/11	Ottawa Hills	Home ...	4:30 PM
Sat	12/14	Madison (Madison Tourn)	Away	TBA
Mon	12/16	Morenci	Away ...	4:30 PM
Wed	12/18	Clinton	Home ...	4:30 PM



J.V. / Varsity Girls Basketball

Tues	12/3	Blissfield	Home	5:30 PM
Fri	12/6	Jefferson	Away	5:30 PM
Tues	12/10	Evergreen	Away	5:30 PM
Fri	12/13	Summerfield	Home	5:30 PM
Mon	12/16	Sand Creek	Home	4:30 PM
Fri	12/27	Emmanuel Christian Tourn	Away	TBA
Sat	12/28	Emmanuel Christian Tourn	Away	TBA
Fri	1/10	Clinton	Home	5:30 PM
Mon	1/13	Cardinal Stritch	Away	5:30 PM
Fri	1/17	Madison	Away	5:30 PM
Tues	1/21	Morenci	Home	5:30 PM
Thurs	1/23	Sand Creek	Home	7:00 PM
(Boys/Girls JV DH ~ boys play first)				
Fri	2/1	Sand Creek	Away	5:30 PM
(Girl/Boys Varsity DH ~ girls play first)				
Mon	1/27	Emmanuel Christian (V)	Home	5:30 PM
Tues	1/28	Clinton	Away	5:30 PM
Thurs	1/30	Britton-Deerfield	Away	5:30 PM
Thurs	2/06	Summerfield	Away	5:30 PM
Thurs	2/13	Madison	Home	5:30 PM
Tues	2/18	Britton-Deerfield	Home	5:30 PM
Thurs	2/20	Morenci	Away	5:30 PM
Thurs	2/27	Dundee	Home	5:30 PM

Middle School Girls Basketball

Wed	1/15	Summerfield	Away	4:30 PM
Mon	1/27	Ottawa Hills (at Elem)	Away	4:30 PM
Thurs	1/30	Madison	Away	4:30 PM
Mon	2/3	Britton-Deerfield	Away	4:30 PM
Wed	2/5	Sand Creek	Home	4:30 PM
Sat	2/8	Sand Creek Tourn	Away ...	9:00 AM
(7th—9 a.m.; 8th—10:15)				
Mon	2/10	Clinton	Home	4:30 PM
Wed	2/12	Morenci	Away	4:00 PM
Sat	2/15	Blissfield (7th grade Round Robin)	Home ...	8:00 AM
Sat	2/15	Blissfield (8th grade Round Robin)	Away ...	8:00 AM
Wed	2/19	Summerfield	Home	4:30 PM
Mon	2/24	Britton-Deerfield Tourn	Away	TBA

MORE STAFF TO LOVE OUR BOBCATS!

The change to the block schedule at the MS/HS building as well as the addition of new programs has meant the need to hire additional teaching staff. Please help us welcome the newest members of our Bobcat family!

Elementary:

- **Lauryn Horace**—2nd Grade Teacher
- **Katie Clement** —Kindergarten Teacher
- **Jen Floyd-Kemritz**—K-5 Resource Room Teacher
- **Lindsey Kunkel** - K-8 STEM Teacher

Middle/High School:

- **Melisa Cousino**—MS/HS Resource Room Teacher
- **Kim DeSilvis**—K-12 Spanish Teacher
- **Monica Adams**—MS/HS Math Teacher
- **RJ Rios**—K-12 Health/Phys Ed Teacher
- **Ashley Vittore** - MS/HS Science Teacher
- **LeeAnn Thomas** - MS/HS ELA Teacher
- **Malinda Luzier** - MS/HS Administrative Assistant

Also, moving to a new position:
Shelly DeVantier—Reading Specialist

Jen Floyd-Kemritz: My name is Jennifer Floyd-Kemritz and this is my 12th year in education! I have been so fortunate to be both a general education teacher and special education teacher throughout my career. I have loved every teaching experience I have had, but am so happy to now call Whiteford home!!! I am a lifelong learner and have attended The University of Toledo since 2005 and graduated again in May of 2018 with an Education Specialist degree in Curriculum and Instruction and Special Education. You can never stop learning!!!! Along with this being my first year at Whiteford, I also have two children attending. Oliver is in 2nd grade and Marley is in 1st grade. In our free time we love to be active; swimming and camping are two of our favorite activities. We also love to read and play board games as a family. My husband, Lee, is also excited to be a part of the Bobcat family and cannot wait to show his support.



Ashley Vittore: Hi All! I am Ashley Vittore (Frye) and I am loving being a part of the Bobcat Family. I am a graduate of MSU with a degree in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resource Education with minors in both Biology and Crop & Soil Science. Over the past few years I have taught various Agriscience courses and I have worked with the Monroe County 4-H program where I oversaw various youth programs. When I am not at school, I like to spend time with my dogs (Fred and Oscar), I assist my Fiancé in operating his small engine repair and sales business in Petersburg and I farm 600 acres with my father in Palmyra where I also raise various livestock. I am very excited to be teaching science this year. Special thanks to everyone who has been so welcoming to me this year. I really feel at home at Whiteford!

Lindsey Kunkel: Hi, my name is Lindsey Kunkel! I will be the new Stem teacher this year at Whiteford Agricultural Schools! I was lucky enough to have a chance to check out my new position last school year. It was a blast, and I can't wait to do it all year long this school year! I previously worked at Washington Junior High School teaching seventh and eighth grade math. I also work at Challenger Learning Center during the summer which is a Stem and Space Science Camp. I can't wait to put my skills to the test to teach a great Stem curriculum this year to all the wonderful students at Whiteford.



Katie Clement: Hello Bobcats! My name is Ms. Clement and I am so excited to have the opportunity to join this amazing team! The children and staff at Whiteford Elementary have been nothing short of amazing thus far. I have been welcomed with open arms and I already feel at home. I am new to Kindergarten; however, this is my fifth year of teaching. I have taught first, second, and third grade! I previously taught in Monroe, Michigan, but I am happy to be teaching much closer to home. I graduated from Eastern Michigan University. I majored in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. I have a passion for teaching the early years and truly understand the importance of early education! When I am not teaching, I love to spend time with my family and friends. I enjoy going up North, being

outside, going to football games, (GO BLUE!) and walking my dog, Zoey. Thank you for the warm welcome and I am looking forward to an amazing year!

RJ Rios: Hello! My name is Richard (RJ) Rios and I am a Toledo, Ohio native and an Adrian College '14 grad. While at Adrian, I graduated with a Physical Education and Health degree and played baseball where I helped the Bulldogs to four consecutive MIAA championships. Previously I was a Physical Education, Health, and 7th and 8th grade science teacher, coached football in 2014 and was the Head JV baseball coach for five years at my alma mater St. Francis de Sales. In the summer of 2018 I recently married my wife Zoe and we reside in Toledo. I am entering the Bobcat community as the 9th grade PE/Health, Strength and Conditioning teacher and the JV baseball coach. I am enjoying my time in the Bobcat community and like the small school atmosphere that is rich in tradition where everyone has been very welcoming.



Back row (left to right): Clay Wing 12th grade, Josh Hagan 12th, Braedon Mills 12th, Trent Durden 11th, Jack Andrews 10th, Dylan Anderson 9th
 Front row (left to right): Jordan Wilson 12th, Natalia DiTerlizzi 12th, Mallory Simmons 12th, Emma VanHove 11th, Anna VanBrandt 10th, Jessica Ulery 9th

2019 WHITEFORD HOMECOMING

Congratulations to the members of the 2019 Homecoming Court ...

SENIOR ATTENDANTS:

NATALIA DITERLIZZI
 MALLORY SIMMONS
 MEGAN WILSON
 JOSH HAGAN
 BRAEDON MILLS
 CLAY WING

*AT TIME OF PRINT THE QUEEN & KING HAD NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED

JUNIORS ATTENDANTS

EMMA VANHOVE
 TRENT DURDEN

SOPHOMORE ATTENDANTS:

ANNA VANBRANDT
 JACK ANDREWS

FRESHMAN ATTENDANTS:

JESSICA ULERY
 DYLAN ANDERSON

PRINCESS:

PAYTON SPEWEIK

PRINCE:

KOLTON MESSERSCHMIDT



Kolton
 Kindergarten



Payton
 Kindergarten

ROCK THE BLOCK

Submitted by Mr. Jim Ross, 9th & 12th grade English teacher

ROLL WITH THE CHANGES: Most have heard that Whiteford has switched to the block schedule at the middle and high school. Students *certainly* know it. I learned a lot teaching in the block the first time and took an active role in helping plan the 2019 reboot. I write to help students and their parents find success, especially those “tired of the same old story.”

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SEVEN-PERIOD DAY: We began the year with the block from the start, but students thankfully haven’t said, “Now I’m only fallin’ apart.” What changed? Students now have one 85-minute class that meets every other day. Blocks 1-4 meet on “A” days, and blocks 5-7 on “B” days, followed by What I Need (W.I.N.) time during the 8th block. Before, students had 52-minute classes that met every single day. (Certainly, 104 minutes lasts longer than just 85.) However, with fewer interruptions and fewer transitions, teachers can begin to make up that lost time. Teachers will also make up time by assigning additional work outside of class, which every now and then may make students a little bit terrified. However, students that need help completing that work can find it.

PEACE OF MIND: If students want peace of mind, they need to guard against falling behind. Teachers could assign two or more assignments to complete outside of class between days when classes meet, because one day in the block covers what two days of class used to. This will challenge students to keep track of due dates and upcoming tests or quizzes. If a class meets on Monday, the student will have to remember what will come due Wednesday, while attending a new set of classes on Tuesday. It will require them to prioritize completing assignments, and in order to prioritize properly, they’ll have to use a planner or some tantamount organizational system that helps them see all the work they have to do with the associated due dates in one spot. Schoology can help, and parents can also access Schoology.

HIP TO BE SQUARE (AT AN ONLINE CALENDAR, YOU CAN STARE): Though it has no explosions, stunts, and/or predictable or improbable on-screen romances, this YouTube video does give a clear, short tutorial on how to use the Schoology’s student calendar: <http://tiny.cc/xewicz>. If you don’t wish to watch the video, “It’s not to hard to figure out; you [could] see it every day.” Students (and parents who set up their Schoology access with a parent code) can view all assignments for ALL classes. If the teacher posts the assignment ahead of time, users will see it on the calendar before it happens. The best planning system entails students writing down assignments in class, but Schoology provides a nice backup. HOWEVER, students have the option of customizing their Schoology calendar for themselves. If the classroom teacher communicates to the class that a test will happen in two weeks but hasn’t posted it, the student can STILL add that to *their* calendar by adding a *personal* calendar to remind them. The aforementioned video explains how.

“CHIP AWAY AT THE STONE” ORGANIZATION: Naturally, classes grow more academically challenging as students advance from year to year and grade to grade. Students will see bigger assignments that require students to attack assignments little by little, as students would likely see in a college setting, or at a job where their company works on a larger project. This requires planning and incremental accomplishments. In English 12, for example, all students must write a research paper and give a persuasive speech on the same topic. This project contains many steps. I do help them plan the completion of incremental goals, but this project still requires students to plan a great deal in order to meet the time requirements and checkpoints on the journey. Block scheduling intensifies the need for “Chip Away at the Stone” planning, which, to reiterate, requires a solid organizational system.

“CARRY ON, MY WAYWARD SON [OR DAUGHTER]; THERE’LL BE PEACE WHEN YOU ARE DONE”: As with any school situation, absences and other unforeseeable obstacles can stand in the way of student success. The block offers many supports for students falling behind in classes, dealing with make-up work, and/or not understanding the content of a course for whatever reason. Students and parents should learn the supports in place, of which so many exist that I haven’t the space to explain them here. Seminar teachers will see students daily, and we will meet regularly with them aid them in academic planning. Parents, tell your son or daughter, who may struggle, to start by talking with their seminar teacher if they feel overwhelmed (or begin to feel that way), or individual classroom teachers, who also know the systems in place to provide help.

EVERYBODY GET TOGETHER: Students who chronically struggle in classes will receive help during W.I.N. time. Students who *periodically* have trouble understanding a concept or assignment can ask their classroom teacher to write a pass for a W.I.N. session to visit an open help-lab for any of these four core subjects, where a teacher remains on-duty to assist, to “smile on [their] brother [and/or sister] right now”: English, math, science and social studies.

POLICY OF TRUTH: In this article, I admit that I referenced several songs. Which ones? I’ll help by listing the artists to the referenced songs in the order I referenced them: REO Speedwagon, Bonnie Tyler, Boston, Huey Lewis & the News, Aerosmith, Kansas, Youngbloods, and Depeche Mode. Also, full disclosure, it will take time for all of us to acclimate to this new schedule and learn its advantageous nuances. This article offers great places to start. Thanks for your time.

MORE STAFF TO LOVE OUR BOBCATS!!

LeeAnn Thomas: I am so pleased to be a part of the Bobcat family! I have been teaching in some capacity for twenty six years – I started at Bedford, then began teaching at an online high school as I left the brick and mortar school to be home to teach my own children, and finally landed here in Whiteford teaching one 8th and one 10th grade English. We have lived in Whiteford for 18 years. We have a crazy fun household with three kids in college, three Bobcats in 10th, 8th, and 5th plus three grandboys, two of which attend Whiteford as well. We are very involved in the Monroe County Fair raising steers, lambs, pigs, ducks, and rabbits. My husband and I are superintendents in the crafts area and we spend about 15 days of our summer at the fair grounds from sun up til way past sun down! As a family we watched the Marvel movies in chronological order this summer...we have two left: Avengers Infinity War and Avengers End Game - do not spoil it for me! I look forward to years of being a part of the Bobcat community!



Melisa Cousino: Hi, my name is Melisa Cousino and I’m so excited to join the Whiteford team. I came from a charter school in Toledo, Imagine Clay, where I was the Special Education Coordinator for our K-8 building and Intervention Specialist for 8th grade. My love for teaching first started with volunteering in my son’s kindergarten classroom where I quickly became a building sub. Right after I finished my business degree I went back for education. Teaching was never my dream job but it became my passion and I have been in the classroom for the last 9 years. My fiancée, Neil Flanner, and I will be getting married October 19th. Neil even graduated from Whiteford in 2003. I have two children in the Bedford school district (this is our 2nd year after moving from Mason). My son, Tyler, is a sophomore and enjoys playing soccer and basketball. My daughter, Dakota, is in 7th grade and plays soccer for a traveling team out of Monroe. In my free time I enjoy being on the water, paddle boards, kayaks,

jet skis, and boating. My kids and I stay active with biking at parks to vacationing in Florida with family. I look forward to joining this team!

Monica Adams: Hello, I am Monica Adams. I currently live in Dundee with my family. My husband Brad and I have two children. Brady is one year old and fully of energy. Ryleigh is six years old and is in first grade this year. Ryleigh also joined the Bobcat family this year as we enrolled her into Whiteford Elementary School. I come to Whiteford after previously teaching at Adrian High School for five years. I graduated from Ferris State University with my bachelors degree in secondary education. I furthered my education at Walden University where I earned my masters degree in education. I am extremely excited to be joining the Bobcat family and am eager to teach math to middle and high school students at Whiteford Agricultural Schools.



Kim DeSilvis: I am truly excited to join the teaching staff at Whiteford. This year will be my 24th year of teaching, as I taught Spanish for the previous 23 years at Jefferson High School in Monroe. Even while teaching at Jefferson, a part of me has always felt at home at Whiteford, as my husband has been teaching here for over 20 years. I have always been impressed with the programs available and opportunities for students. Whiteford is an amazing school with an incredibly caring and supportive community. I am blessed to have the opportunity to “fully” become a Bobcat! My husband and I have 3 children. Zach, age 24, is in his final year of Law School at the University of Toledo. He married Chelsea Perry in November, and we now anxiously await the arrival of our first grandchild on October 24th. Kennedy, age 18, is a Freshman at the University of Toledo and is also studying law. Rylie, age 13, is an 8th grader here at Whiteford. We spend a lot of time together as a family and do a lot of traveling, which is my favorite pastime. I’m looking forward to an amazing school year. Teaching Spanish is a joy for me as it is so fun and rewarding.

Lauryn Horace: My name is Lauryn Horace and I am so excited to be teaching second grade at Whiteford! Before becoming a Bobcat, I was a substitute teacher for Bedford Public Schools, and I also worked for the latchkey program. Outside of the classroom, I really enjoy running, baking, and spending time with my family. I look forward to a school year filled with hands-on learning and fun!



2019 Bond Proposal Highlights



Safety & Security

- New bus loop to enhance traffic flow and student safety during pick up and drop off
- Continue to improve secure entrances at elementary and high schools
- Campus ADA accessibility improvements



Infrastructure

- Restroom renovation at all buildings
- New high school septic field
- Maintenance upgrades at all schools
- High School parking lot expansion



Arts & Music

- Band room addition including individual practice rooms
- Choir room addition
- Art room addition including kiln room for pottery instruction
- New band instruments and choir piano



Work-Based Learning

- Agriculture classroom and laboratory upgrades
- Dedicated STEM classroom and laboratory
- Collaborative spaces for study groups and individualized learning
- Media center upgrades and revitalization



Athletics

- New track and field facility including rubber track installation
- New gymnasium which includes an expanded weight training facility
- Football field bleacher upgrades

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5!

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are the improvements needed?

Whiteford Agricultural Schools has worked hard to preserve and maintain the facilities and infrastructure in our places of learning. However, just like many of us experience with our own homes, as important components of building infrastructure approach or outlive their useful lives, major renovations or replacements are needed. Before bringing this bond program proposal to the community, Whiteford Agricultural Schools engaged an outside firm to conduct an in-depth facility analysis. Based on the findings of that study, the District worked with school board members and the community to prioritize which projects were of "critical need" status and should be included in the November 5 bond proposal.

What is on the November 5, 2019, ballot?

The proposed bond program focuses on upgrades to address safety, security, and infrastructure needs, as well as improvements to learning environments to support the district's educational goals. The bond proposal authorizes the issuance of \$15.4 million in bonds in three separate series over five years.

Why is Whiteford Agricultural Schools proposing a bond?

At Whiteford Agricultural Schools, we strive to engage, encourage, and empower our students. Through this bond, we would work to:

- Enhance the safety and security of our schools
- Keep stride with the pace of modern technology
- Improve learning environments
- Maintain community assets that are more than 50 years old
- Allow focus of general fund dollars to be allocated toward in-classroom learning while bond dollars address critical infrastructure needs

Why does it make financial sense to present the bond to the voters at this time?

- It allows the district to preserve general fund dollars for instruction and classroom needs by providing a dedicated funding source to address identified and prioritized site, facility and equipment upgrades
- Current interest rates are historically low, translating to a relatively low cost of borrowing money for both the District and taxpayers
- Construction costs are significantly rising. Putting off this bond may raise overall costs of the planned projects.

What will happen if the bond does not pass?

Over the past decade, several cuts in school funding throughout the State of Michigan, coupled with the rising cost of operating the school system, have put tremendous pressure on the district's general operating fund budget. Failure to approve the bond proposal would mean the district would have to delay much-needed improvements and any emergency projects would have to be paid for with general operating funds that would otherwise go to support educational programs for students.



For more information, visit www.whiteford.k12.mi.us/bond