

# WHITEFORD AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Office of the Superintendent of Schools



**SUPERINTENDENT FAMILY BULLETIN**  
**JANUARY 7, 2024**

### **GREETING**

Hey, Bobcat Families! Back in 2014, Whiteford invested in the increased safety of students and staff with the purchase of the Lockout “Boot” Safety System that was designed to keep students and staff secure in the event of a lockdown situation. At the February 13, 2023 Board of Education Meeting, the Board learned about upgrades that have been made to enhance this “Boot” system to be a “Smart Boot” system. The new system utilizes an ultra-secure Bluetooth technology that establishes an interconnected web for the purpose of protecting the entire school in the event of an active shooter emergency. On Monday (12/18) our staff was trained in our new Lockout “Smart Boot and Smart Light” Safety system, and our students were trained on Friday (1/5). Representatives from the Lockout Company and mascot “Bobby the Boot” visited our students to train them on its proper use. All families and staff should have received the following [Lockout “Smart Boot” Safety Training/Drill Letter 1/7/24](#) earlier today through Infinite Campus Messenger.

As parents and guardians, we ask that you speak directly with your child(ren) about the consequences involved with playing with or setting off the system. As a district, we will not tolerate students playing with Smart Boxes or Smart Stations. We will pursue suspension, expulsion, and possible prosecution for the misuse of the system.

For those stakeholders who want to learn more or participate in school safety decisions, I hope you will consider attending a stakeholder meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024 beginning at 6:30pm in the Board Rm. If you are a parent, guardian, student, staff, or community member, we value your perspective, and we would like for you to consider participating in this focus group meeting. If you are interested in attending, please contact Scott Huard at: [scott.huard@whiteford.k12.mi.us](mailto:scott.huard@whiteford.k12.mi.us). We are better together - We are Whiteford!

### **SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION MONTH**

January is School Board Member Recognition Month across the state of Michigan! At Whiteford Agricultural Schools, we are grateful for our seven Trustees who dedicate their time and energy to serve students, staff, and families. School board members are Trustees, responsible for a trust established by the community. The most important beneficiaries of this trust are the public school students within our learning community. Thank you to our school board members: Shane Hillard (President), Dave Dixon (Vice President), Mike Iott (Secretary), Janelle Young (Treasurer), Kristi Mock, Jeff Bunge, and Jason Vida. We are thankful for their ongoing commitment to the Whiteford Agricultural School District. Information regarding our Board of Education: <https://www.whiteford.k12.mi.us/board-of-education/>

### **DECEMBER STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH**

The Whiteford Employee of the Month is sponsored by Leski Wittman Insurance Company. Linda Groch, academic interventionist teacher, will be recognized at January's Board of Education Meeting as the December Staff Member of the Month. Mrs. Groch was nominated by Elaine Thieman and Ken Groch. The nomination forms can be assessed here: [SMOM-Linda Groch](#). Chris MacMillian (Leski Wittman Insurance) will present Linda with a gift card for her achievement. Congratulations, Mrs. Groch!

### **STUDENT ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL SAFETY**

As you may be aware, part of our Bond Series work addressed student and staff arrival and dismissal as we created a new bus loop for dropping off and picking up students. This loop has helped alleviate most of our arrival and dismissal safety concerns with congestion and traffic patterns at both buildings. We appreciate those individuals that show kindness, patience, and an awareness of students, staff, or guests walking in the parking lots or crosswalks. Yielding to another vehicle or person is always appreciated in an effort to maintain the safety of all. For improvement with arrival, we ask that our elementary parents utilize the six (6) designated spots for dropping off your child in front of the elementary. We ask adults to stay inside their vehicles unless you need to get out to assist a child in a booster seat. At dismissal, we have

a slight back-up on Consear in front of the middle/high school building. If you are picking up a ms/hs child in front of the building, we ask that parents utilize the entire curb space by parking as close to the car in front of you or consider pulling into an open parking space to wait for your child. Thank you for helping to make a positive change and provide a safe environment for our learning community!

### **WINTER HOMECOMING**

Winter Homecoming is scheduled for Friday, February 2 as the Varsity/JV Boys take on Summerfield. The JV game will start at 5:30pm with the Hall of Fame inductees being recognized prior to the varsity boys' game. Mr. and Mrs. Whiteford will also be crowned during this special evening. We hope that our community will attend as we celebrate our Winter Homecoming Game. The Winterfest Dance for our high school students will be held the following evening at 7pm in the middle school gym.

### **SCHOOL THREATS ARE NO JOKE**

Now, more than ever, we need to maintain a partnership with parents/guardians to convey a consistent message to our students that regardless of intentions, it is not okay to talk about violence towards individuals, groups, or the school community on social media platforms or with friends. We are asking parents or guardians to clearly communicate with their student(s) that violent threats and behaviors are not acceptable. A discussion around possible consequences such as school suspension or expulsion, or prosecution by the Monroe County Prosecutor's Office for making threats of violence would also be appropriate. We ask that parents/guardians continue to stress the importance of how/when to report concerning behavior by utilizing the [OK2SAY](#) student safety program, Monroe County Sheriff's Dispatch Center, and/or communicating directly to a Whiteford staff member or school administration. Together, we can be vigilant in identifying possible threats of violence!

### **STRATEGIC PLAN BOND PLANNING**

On Wednesday (12/13/23), stakeholders had their first opportunity to hear an update from October's Strategic Planning Stakeholder Meetings, share feedback and interest regarding the scope and costs associated with a possible elementary and athletic bond project, and understand next steps as we consider solutions to stabilize enrollment, lower class sizes, and address athletic complex needs. Stakeholders learned that the bond project would be a ZERO millage bond extension that could raise \$10 million dollars. There would be no tax rate increase as the current 4.93 millage would remain 4.93 for an additional six (6) years with the extension. If you were unable to attend the 12/13/23 meeting, it is recommended that you attend the 1/10/24 meeting at 6:30pm in rooms 2/3 of the middle/high school building. The presentation from the meeting can be accessed here: [Whiteford Bond Planning Stakeholder Meeting 12/13/24](#)

### **ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS SURVEY**

We are seeking some information from families regarding Kindergarten enrollment projections as well as interest in a Young 5 or Transitional Kindergarten Program. Please complete the following survey if you will be enrolling Kindergarten student(s) in the future based upon your current situation: [Whiteford Kindergarten Enrollment Survey](#).

### **SAFETY STAKEHOLDER FOCUS MEETING**

As part of our Strategic Plan goal to improve culture and learning environments, we have contracted with American Threat Assessment & Protection to evaluate our current safety processes and procedures at Whiteford. As a way to gather stakeholder safety perception data, we are seeking individuals that would be interested in attending a stakeholder meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024 beginning at 6:30pm in the Board Rm. This meeting is intended to allow an opportunity to learn more about the perceptions of our stakeholders. If you are a parent, guardian, student, staff, or community member, we value your perspective, and we would like for you to consider participating in this focus group meeting. If you are interested in attending, please contact Scott Huard at: [scott.huard@whiteford.k12.mi.us](mailto:scott.huard@whiteford.k12.mi.us). There is a School Safety Focus Group Pre-Assessment survey that will be completed prior to the meeting.

### **JANUARY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

The next Board of Education meeting is January 8, 2023. The meeting will begin **at 5:30pm** in the board room located in the MS/HS. The Board of Education agenda is posted the Friday preceding a meeting: [BOE Agenda & Minutes](#).

## SCHOOL DELAYS / CLOSINGS

School closing or delay announcements will be sent via the Infinite Campus Messenger systems and announced on the following television stations: Channel 11 (CBS) and Channel 13 (ABC). Announcements should occur no later than 7am. Parents and students are asked NOT to call the school or school officials. When school is delayed due to fog/snow/ice or other emergency conditions, it will be delayed for a minimum of two (2) hours.

## STRATEGIC PLAN PILLARS OF SUCCESS

[Whiteford Strategic Plan 2022-2027](#)

→ **ENGAGED** in purposeful learning.

→ **EMPOWERED** for a meaningful role in our dynamic world.

→ **ENCOURAGED** by our community.

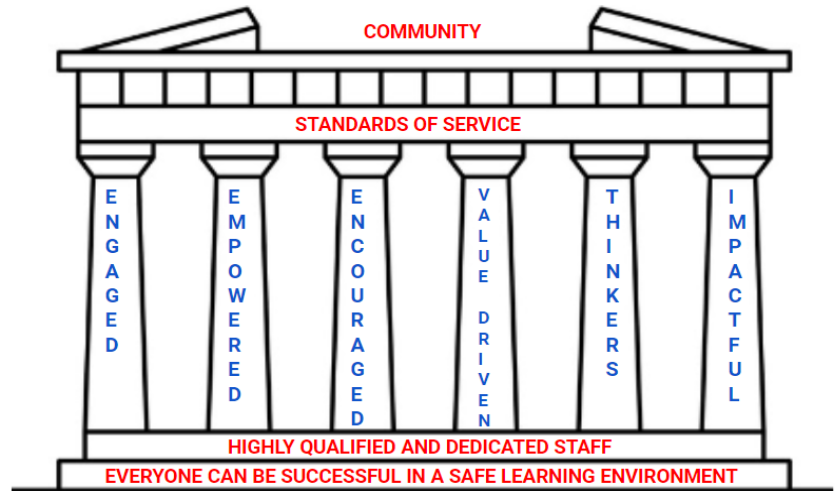
→ **VALUE DRIVEN** leaders.

→ Critical **THINKERS**.

→ **IMPACTFUL** in their community.

→ **STANDARDS OF SERVICE** We will treat all stakeholders (students, staff, parents/guardians, community members) with respect, kindness, and professionalism at all times.

→ **COMMUNITY** promotes, cultivates, and celebrates student and district success.



## BREAKFAST/LUNCH MENUS

<https://whiteford.nutrislice.com/menu>

## SCHOOL CALENDARS

[2023-2024 School Calendar](#)

[2024-2025 School Calendar](#)

## ATHLETICS WEBSITE/CALENDAR

<https://www.whiteford.k12.mi.us/athletics/>

## THIS WEEK

January 3-19 School of Choice 105c Window  
January 8 Board of Education Meeting 5:30pm Board Room  
January 10 Stakeholder Bond Feedback & Interest Meeting 6:30pm MS Rooms 2-3

## UPCOMING

January 15 No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
January 18 Early Release Elementary 10:55am; MS/HS 11:05am  
January 18 Safety Stakeholder Focus Meeting 6:30pm Board Rm  
January 19 Early Release Elementary 10:55am; MS/HS 11:05am  
January 19 End of 2nd Marking Period  
January 24 FFA Leadership Contests (Districts) 3:30pm Dundee High School  
January 27 WPA Family Fun Night 6pm MS Gym  
February 3 MSVMA District 12 HS Solo & Ensemble 8am MS Gym  
February 6 Whiteford Recreation Meeting 7pm MS/HS Media Center  
February 7 FFA Leadership Contests (Regionals) 3:30pm Saline High School  
February 16 No School - Teacher Professional Development

February 19 No School - Presidents Day  
February 20 Early Release Elementary 10:55am; MS/HS 11:05am  
February 20 Parent-Teacher Conferences 12-3pm  
February 28 FFA Field Trip: State Convention MSU  
March 5 Whiteford Recreation Meeting 7 pm MS/HS Media Center  
March 11-15 Washington DC Trip  
March 14 Field Trip: K-5th Croswell Opera House  
March 15 HS Spring Musical 7:30pm HS Gym  
March 16 HS Spring Musical 7:30pm HS Gym  
March 17 HS Spring Musical 2:30 HS Gym  
March 22 End of 3rd Marking period  
March 22 Early Release Elementary 10:55am; MS/HS 11:05am  
Mar. 23-April 1 Spring Break  
March 31 Easter  
April 1 No School - Easter Break  
April 2 Whiteford Recreation Meeting 7 pm MS/HS Media Center  
April 10 State Testing Day

My best,



Scott L. Huard, ED.S.  
Superintendent

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