

# Bobcat Tales

Whiteford Agricultural Schools  
6655 Consear Road  
Ottawa Lake, MI 49267



## POSTAL CUSTOMER

Whiteford School District  
Ottawa Lake, MI 49267



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## 2024– 2025 SCHOOL HOURS / CALENDAR

Building	Starting Time	Ending Time	Early Dismissal Time
Elementary	7:40 AM	2:55 PM	10:55 AM
Middle/High School	8:00 AM	3:00 PM	11:05 AM

August 28 ..... Teacher PD Day  
 August 28..... 1-12 Open House  
 August 29..... TK/K Open House  
 Sept. 3..... First Day of School  
*(students report at noon)*  
 Nov. 1 ..... NO SCHOOL  
*(Teacher PD Day)*  
 Nov. 14..... EARLY DISMISSAL  
*(Parent-Teacher Conferences)*  
 Nov. 27..... EARLY DISMISSAL  
*(Start of Thanksgiving Break)*  
 Nov. 28-29 ..... NO SCHOOL  
*(Thanksgiving Break)*  
 Dec. 20 ..... EARLY DISMISSAL  
*(Start of Christmas/Winter Break)*  
 Dec. 23-  
 Jan. 3 ..... NO SCHOOL  
*(Christmas / Winter Break)*  
 Jan. 6 ..... School Resumes  
 Jan. 20 ..... NO SCHOOL  
*(Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)*  
 Jan. 23-24 ..... EARLY DISMISSAL (Exams)  
 Feb. 14 ..... NO SCHOOL  
*(Teacher PD Day)*  
 Feb. 17 ..... NO SCHOOL  
*(President's Day)*  
 Feb. 21 ..... EARLY DISMISSAL

March 21 ..... EARLY DISMISSAL  
*(Start of Spring/Easter Break)*  
 March 24-  
 March 28 ..... NO SCHOOL  
*(Spring/Easter Break)*  
 March 31 ..... School Resumes  
 April 9..... STATE TESTING DAY  
*(No School Grades K-7, 12)*  
 April 18..... NO SCHOOL  
*(Good Friday)*  
 April 21..... NO SCHOOL  
*(Day After Easter)*  
 May 26..... NO SCHOOL  
*(Memorial Day)*  
 June 10 ..... EARLY DISMISSAL (Exams)  
 June 11\* ..... EARLY DISMISSAL  
*(Exams & 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  
9:30 AM—10:30 AM

#### Zion Lutheran Church

2nd/4th Tuesday of Month  
10 AM—12 PM

### MOBILE FOOD PANTRY SCHEDULE

- \*1st Tuesday: 4:00—6:00 Nova Faith  
5105 Glendale Ave., Toledo, OH 43614
- \*1st Thursday: 4:30—6:30 Crossroads  
6960 Sylvania-Petersburg Rd., Ottawa Lake, MI 49267
- \*2nd Tuesday: 3:00—5:00 St. Paul's Episcopal  
798 S. Coy Rd., Oregon, OH 43616
- \*3rd Thursday: 12:00—2:00 Lott Industries  
3350 Hill Ave., Toledo, OH 43607
- \*4th Thursday: 4:00—6:00 Indiana Ave Missionary Baptist  
640 Indiana Ave., Toledo, OH 43604
- \*4th Friday: 2:00—4:00 Agape Community Center  
225 S. Irwin Rd., Holland, OH 43528

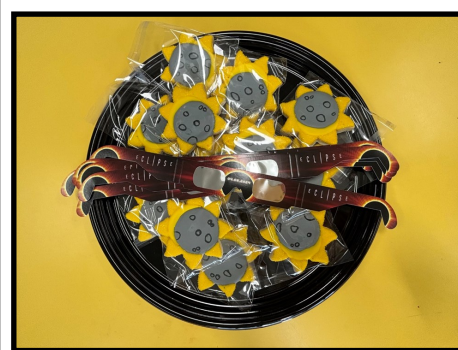
# WHITEFORD AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS Bobcat Tales

This newsletter is also available on the district's website: [www.whiteford.k12.mi.us](http://www.whiteford.k12.mi.us)

June 2024

## THE GREAT AMERICAN SOLAR ECLIPSE

The Great American Solar Eclipse that visited North America on Monday April 8<sup>th</sup> was exceptional. The duration of totality for some was up to 4 minutes and 27 seconds. For many it was not their first time viewing a total eclipse but for others it was. The April 8, 2024, total eclipse was witnessed by millions of people. The exquisite beauty of the Sun's corona hanging in the suddenly darkened sky was truly worth seeing. And to not miss a chance on a learning experience of this once in lifetime spectacular astronomical event, Mrs. Marsha Groll's Middle School science class participated in a solar eclipse model contest. Models were judged on creativity, moving parts, and written descriptions. Seventh graders learned about solar eclipse safety and made pin-hole viewers. One student witnessing the eclipse with his mother said "Mom, listen for the birds to stop chirping and crickets to start when it gets dark", which of course is exactly what happened. This just shows how engaged our students were in their learning experience about this great event. The next chance to witness a total solar eclipse in the United States won't be until 2024 and will not have the broad reach across the United States as the 2024 eclipse.





From the superintendent's office...

## Superintendent's Message

Hello, Bobcat Families,

At the May 13 Board of Education Meeting, the Trustees approved a resolution to call a vote on August 6, 2024 for a bond project. We have an opportunity to generate \$10 million with a Zero Mill increase from the current bond levy. As part of the Strategic Plan 2022-2027, Whiteford Schools wants to remain a small district that meets the individual needs of the students and families it serves. The bond project would improve the elementary building and outside athletic fields. For the elementary building, this bond project would add four (4) classrooms that would allow us to lower class sizes, keep fifth graders at the elementary, and control our enrollment as part of the 66/70 plan outlined in our Strategic Plan. Additionally, the elementary would add a flex space addition where we could utilize it as a creative space for Physical Education (PE/Gym) classes, indoor recess, building-wide assemblies, Whiteford Rec league basketball practices and games, and Whiteford Parent Association (WPA) events. We would also add two single stall bathrooms, replace the roof, and upgrade the boiler. The athletic improvements are also addressed in our current Strategic Plan as we improve and maintain the physical assets of the district. We have aging structures, poor playing surfaces, and drainage issues that are limiting our playability during the wet fall or spring sports seasons. We would relocate the baseball and softball fields and replace all sports fields drainage tiles, irrigation, and playing surfaces. We would see new dugouts, press boxes, fencing, backstops, bleachers, and a new track storage building with additional bathrooms and concession stands. The community will have the opportunity to attend in-person bond meetings this spring/summer to learn more about the scope and costs of the project. Information can also be found on our website at: whiteford.k12.mi.us and clicking on "Our District" and "Bond Projects". If approved by voters, we will be in a great position heading into the future and remain as one of the best kept secrets in southern Michigan! We are better together - We are Whiteford!

My Best,  
**Scott L. Huard**  
Scott L. Huard,  
Superintendent

The Strategic Plan 2022-2027, which was created by a very broad and diverse group of 32 stakeholders and the survey results of over 400 people, was Board approved at the May 9, 2022 meeting. Throughout the planning process, the community expressed high expectations of Whiteford Schools becoming a world-class school district and having all students graduate from high school. Even though some of the goals are extremely high, they reflect the strong desire that has been expressed to embrace significant change and dramatically improve the school system for the next five years.

### Mission

Whiteford Agricultural School District's mission is to engage in purposeful learning and empower all for a meaningful role in our dynamic world.

### Vision

Whiteford Agricultural School District's vision is to develop value-driven leaders and critical thinkers who will positively impact their community.

### Shared Belief Statements

We Believe...

- Everyone has the ability to be successful.
- In meeting the social, emotional, and academic needs in an environment that is physically and emotionally safe.
- A highly qualified and dedicated staff.
- Community support is valuable in promoting student success.

### Strategic Plan Goal Areas

Academics & Programs

Personnel & Leadership

Culture & Learning Environment

Facilities

Superintendent of Schools  
**Scott L. Huard**

### Board of Education

President  
Shane Hillard

Vice President  
Dave Dixon

Secretary  
Mike Iott

Treasurer  
Janelle Young

Trustees  
Jeff Bunge  
Kristi Mock  
Jason Vida

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings  
6:00 PM

July 8  
August 12  
September 9  
October 14  
November 11  
December 9

MS/HS Boardroom

District Mission / Vision

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

We are Whiteford!



## Spotlights...

### Staff Member of the Month

Congratulations to the following Staff Members of the Month winners!

September.....**Mark Truna** (MS/HS English Teacher)  
 October.....**Ben Avis** (Special Education Teacher)  
 November.....**Amanda Diesing** (MS Teacher)  
 December.....**Linda Groch** (Elem. Interventionist)  
 January.....**Jay Yockey** (HS Social Studies Teacher)  
 February.....**Jen Floyd** (Special Education Teacher)  
 March.....**Lisa Childers** (MS/HS Art Teacher)  
 April.....**Tony Napierala** (Maintenance)  
 May.....**Jake Gust** (HS Ag/Science Teacher)  
 Year Winner...**Linda Groch** (Elem. Interventionist)

Each winner was presented with a \$100 gift card (Year Winner recipient received a \$500 gift card) from Leski Wittman Insurance Agency at the monthly board meetings.



**Mr. and Miss Whiteford**  
**Noah Stevens and Anna Schober**



CONGRATULATIONS to **Dane DuVall** and **Liam Waterford** for being accepted into the MSVMA ALL-STATE HONORS CHOIR which represents 80 of the best choral singers in Michigan. The 3-day All-State event takes place at MSU in May!



The Middle School 7th & 8th Grade Concert Choir received a "DIVISION I" rating at the MSVMA District 12 Choral Festival on Friday, March 8th. The festival was hosted by South Lyon East HS. The MS choir received all "1's" from the three performance judges, including a perfect score of 30 and they also received a "1" in Sightreading. This excellent rating made them eligible for the State Choir Festival which was held on May 4th at Leslie HS. The MS Choir just missed a Division 1 rating by one point...earning the highest Division 2 score.



The High School Concert Choir and Chorale each received a "DIVISION I" rating at the MSVMA District 12 Choral Festival on Wednesday, March 20th. The festival was hosted by Lincoln HS. Both HS choirs received high marks from the three performance judges, including one perfect score of 30 and each choir also received a "1" in Sightreading. This excellent rating made them eligible for the State Choir Festival which was held on May 4th at Leslie HS in which both the HS Choir and HS Chorale received a Division 1 rating.

### HOW TO CONTACT US MAIN PHONE

734-856-1443

### PHONE PROMPTS

- 4 Elementary Office
- 5 MS/HS Office Athletic Dept.
- 6 Transportation Superintendent/Business Office/Maintenance

### ADMINISTRATION / SUPPORT SERVICES

Superintendent  
**Scott L. Huard**  
ext. 101 or 401

Elementary Principal  
TBD  
ext. 104 or 110

MS/HS Principal  
Jeremy Fielder  
ext. 102 or 108

Athletic Director  
Marcus Luzier  
ext. 103

Dean of Student Services/Career Coach  
Ken Groch  
ext. 240

Elem. Counselor  
Lauren Ehman  
Ext. 309

MS/HS Counselor  
Jennifer Head  
ext. 216

Director of Transportation, Buildings & Grounds  
Charlie Butz  
ext. 107 or 401

Director of Finance & Business Services  
Marisa Tebbe-Cousino  
ext. 105

Accounting Assistant  
Laura Cruz-Hartland  
ext. 106

Director of HR  
Cathy Machcinski  
ext. 111

### OFFICE FAXES

Elementary Office  
734-856-4724

MS/HS Office  
734-856-2564

Superintendent / Business Office  
734-854-6463

## Kindergarten Round Up Information

If you missed our screening day and would like to set up an appointment, please contact Superintendent Scott Huard at [scott.huard@whiteford.k12.mi.us](mailto:scott.huard@whiteford.k12.mi.us).

## Transitional Kindergarten Program

Based upon survey data collected from families in December/January and other considerations, we are moving forward with a Transitional Kindergarten (TK) classroom for the 2024-2025 school year. The program is designed for students who will turn 5 between May 1, 2024-December 1, 2024. Students who turn 5 before May 1, 2024, will also be considered based on screening results. Parents who were unable to attend Kindergarten Round-Up with their student will need to contact the Superintendent, Mr. Huard, at [scott.huard@whiteford.k12.mi.us](mailto:scott.huard@whiteford.k12.mi.us) or **734-856-1443 Ext.101** to set up a screening time for their child. We will begin contacting parents of students who meet the criteria for Transitional Kindergarten after May 1 to seek interest in enrolling in the Transitional Kindergarten program.

## Schools of Choice

To provide a quality education for all students in Monroe County, the Monroe County Schools of Choice Program is offered by the Monroe County Intermediate School District in cooperation with its constituent districts. This program allows parents and students the choice to attend any public school in Monroe County, regardless of where they live.

**Remember, a student must be released by his/her resident district.**

The Monroe County Schools of Choice application window runs **April 1st - June 28, 2024**. Applications are available on our website [www.whiteford.k12.mi.us](http://www.whiteford.k12.mi.us) (New Student Registration Tab).

## Substitute Bus Drivers Needed

Whiteford is always in need of substitute bus drivers. If you have free time in the mornings and/or afternoons and are interested, please contact Charlie Butz, Director of Transportation & Buildings and Grounds, at 734.856.1443, ext. 107 or [cbutz@whiteford.k12.mi.us](mailto:cbutz@whiteford.k12.mi.us). We'll even help you with obtaining your CDL. Paid training is provided. This is a great job for stay-at-home moms or dads with school-aged children or retirees who love working with children and want to earn a little extra money.

## Transportation Request Forms

If you intend to have your child(ren) ride the bus to and/or from school for the upcoming school year, you are required to fill out a Transportation Request Form and return it to school by June 1, 2024. If you do not fill out and return this form, your child(ren) will not be assigned to a bus route for the 2024-25 school year. These forms are available in the building offices and can be found on our website under the "New Student Registration" and "Transportation" tabs.

## Athletics

Congratulations to both our Baseball and Softball Teams on being District Champions!



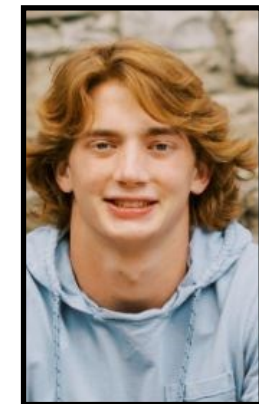
**REMINDER OF MHSAA REQUIRED PHYSICALS:** The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) requires that all student-athletes have a physical on file with the school they participate in. The MHSAA requires that [physicals for the 2024-2025 school/athletic season be dated on or after APRIL 15<sup>th</sup> 2024](#). You can find the physical form online at [MHSAA.com](http://MHSAA.com) key word 'physical' or you can pick up at copy at the high school office. Forms are also available on our website: [whiteford.k12.mi.us](http://whiteford.k12.mi.us)—Athletics Page.

## 2024 Toledo National Football Foundation Assistant Coach of the Year



**Congratulations** to Assistant Football Coach **Ben Avis** who was honored at the Spring Awards Banquet on March 12th. This award is presented each year to a long-term assistant coach who has impacted the leadership of the high school team, developed success in the program, is a role model to all students, and has supported the head coach along with successfully mentoring players.

## 2024 Scholar-Athlete Award Recipients Announced in Class C & D



**Congratulations** to **Rylin Ruddy** who was one of 10 student-athletes from Class C and D member schools to receive scholarships through the MHSAA/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award program.

## VOTER INFORMATION

Where to vote?  
Visit [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote) to locate your polling place or to register to vote.

Who can vote?  
Any registered voter living in the Whiteford Agricultural School District.

Absentee Voting  
Visit [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote) to request an absentee ballot. Ballots will be available by **June 27, 2024**.

Reminder:  
You are able to register to vote up until and on election day.

Vote **BY** Tuesday, August 6, 2024  
**ZERO MILL NET INCREASE**  
(estimated from the current levy)



## DISTRICT IMPROVEMENTS

There will be two (2) proposals on the August 6, 2024 ballot. These ballots can be viewed in full at: [www.whiteford.k12.mi.us/our-district/bond-projects/](http://www.whiteford.k12.mi.us/our-district/bond-projects/)

Proposal 1 - If passed would generate \$9.6 million for the following improvements:

### Elementary School

- Add Four Classrooms
- Add Flex Space/Bathroom/Storage
- Add Two Single Stall Bathrooms
- Replace Roof
- Upgrade Boiler/Pump

### Athletic Field

- Replace all Sports Field Drainage Tiles, Irrigation, and Playing Surfaces
- Relocate Baseball and Softball Fields
- Replace Dugouts, Press Boxes, Fencing, Backstops, and Bleachers

Proposal 2 - If passed would generate \$400,000 for adding synthetic field turf for softball field and baseball infield instead of just natural grass outlined in Proposal 1. Essentially, the passing of this proposal would add turf if Proposal 1 passes. If it fails, the fields would remain natural grass.

### What does it cost me?

Since these bond proposals, if passed, are expected to keep the tax rate the same as the current levy, this is expected to be a "ZERO MILL" net increase from the current levy. If both proposals pass, the tax rate is estimated to remain the same at 4.93 mills after the bonds are issued.

### Why is the district proposing an Estimated Zero Mill net increase bond proposal now?

We have an opportunity to generate new funds for capital improvements with an estimated Zero Mill Net increase from the current bond levy. As part of the Strategic Plan 2022-2027, Whiteford Schools wants to remain a small district that meets the individual needs of the students and families it serves. It is our goal to keep KG-5th grade classes at twenty-two (22) students per classroom, which allows for a bit of growth with new students moving into the district. We project that the district would need to offer three sections of each grade level at the elementary to accomplish this ratio.

In order to successfully carry out this plan, we need four (4) additional classrooms at the elementary. The elementary flex addition would be utilized as a creative space for Physical Education (PE/Gym), indoor recess, building-wide assemblies, and other events. The athletic improvements are also addressed in our current Strategic Plan to improve and maintain the physical assets of the district. We have aging softball and baseball dugouts and press boxes. The playing surfaces do not drain well during the fall and spring sports' seasons for the football, softball, and baseball fields.

## Robotics.....goes to STATES!



With thousands of teams competing worldwide in FIRST Robotics, this is a league like no other. Michigan alone has over 600 teams and the Whiteford Bobcats finished the season in the top 20%!

For the first time ever, the Whiteford Robotics team competed at a State Tournament! The team made this achievement by earning qualification points at two district tournaments including 40 teams, both of which the Bobcats placed third.

A robotics team is much more than meets the eye!

The **Build and Programming Team** diligently prepared the bot for each competition and in between matches. During the initial building phase, the build team spends practices working on different parts of the robot. We split up into groups and some work on the climber, some on the arm, and some on the shooter. The **Programming Team** uses Java programming to bring the hardware the **Build Team** creates to life! Together the robot will drive itself using cameras and sensors.

The **Communications Team** are the designers of the team swag and pit. We also help with sponsor communications, social media, and provide support during matches. We cheer for our team, scout other teams, learning strengths and weaknesses for our lead strategist to use.

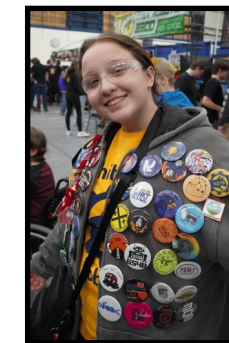
And finally, the **Drive Team** executes! This season we had a driver, a shooter, a technician, and even a human player. The human player this season could give the robot game pieces and help score extra points.

Together, the team reached their goal of competing in the Michigan State Championship.

Our goal next year is to make to Worlds!



Worlds is the final competition of the season where all the top teams from each country compete against each other.



"My favorite memory from this season is the friends I met from other teams." -Kyleigh Pitney

This year robotics was filled with fun, friendship, excitement, and learning. We enjoyed staying in a hotel when competing, the excitement of competitions filled with 40 teams at once, and making new friends along the way.



Meet our coaches!!! Mr. Welling and Mr. Gapp are super fun and they know how to make even the toughest things fun! The team is grateful to have them as our coaches!



"I really liked getting certified on different power tools and being able to cut metal and drill metal." - Jamie Valasek

For more information, check us out at [whs6570.com](http://whs6570.com) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

From the booster groups...

## Whiteford Recreation Club

K-6th Grade Sports (WRC)

Spring sports is underway! Come on out to support some of our youngest Whiteford athletes while they are learning new skills and building confidence at Whiteford StoneCo Park. And make sure you look for our Winter Sports sign-ups in May to plan for next school year.

Whiteford Recreation Club wants to thank all of our volunteer parents who are helping to develop our next generation of student-athletes, teaching not only athleticism but community values. You are what makes Whiteford great!

### Fall Sports Sign-ups in May!

1st thru 4th GRADE FLAG FOOTBALL  
5th thru 6th GRADE TRAVEL TACKLE FOOTBALL  
SEPTEMBER THRU OCTOBER

Do you want to stay up to date on schedules, sign-ups, and league rules?

Find all you need to know here on our website. <https://sites.google.com/view/whitefordrecreationsignups/home> or connect with us at <https://www.facebook.com/whitefordRec>

## Whiteford Parents' Association (WPA) News

What a great school year this was for the WPA! We had a good mix of returning faces and brand-new members, traditional events and new ideas, and it truly felt like a year we will look back upon as ushering in a new era for the WPA. One of the biggest changes we had was to our board of officers, with Amy Fyn being elected to replace Dianna O'Neal, who is retiring her vice presidency at the end of the school year. Congratulations to Amy and thank you, Dianna, for your years of service on the WPA board!

April saw the return of one of our most-anticipated events—the Daddy/Daughter Dance. This year's theme was Barbie, and it was one of the most-loved themes in recent years! This was largely due to the phenomenal group of ladies who went above and beyond to transform the elementary cafeteria into all things Barbie. HUGE thank you to all of you on the Dance committee, and all of you who showed up to help decorate and make sure the night ran smoothly! If you don't already follow us on Facebook, be sure to search for Whiteford Parents' Association and "like" our page so you can see all the photos from the dance!

Our Dine and Donate Fundraiser wrapped up with events at JoJo's Pizza and Funagin's—shout out to both those businesses for partnering with us! The event at Funagin's was much more than just a dinner out; they opened their business for the night to just us Bobcats, and offered us a large discount to get in. We've had such positive feedback to this event that we look forward to expanding it next school year.

The last two months of the school year always end in a blur, and this year was no different: May was a month of celebrations, with the WPA celebrating staff with snack baskets and catered treats during Staff Appreciation week; celebrating our Middle School and High School students who achieved the Honor Roll all 3 of the first quarters with a special Honors breakfast; and helping Mr. Hubbard celebrate the end of the year with our elementary students, at Carnival/Track and Field day. All these events were made possible only with the help of our dedicated volunteer parents, and we cannot thank you enough!

WPA meetings will resume in September, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:00 in the elementary cafeteria. We wish everyone a spectacular summer filled with fun times and new memories, and we will look forward to seeing you in the fall!

## Bond Election Information | Vote BY Tuesday, August 6, 2024



### School Bond Proposal Language Summary

I. - Shall Whiteford Agricultural School District of the Counties of Monroe and Lenawee, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Nine Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$9,600,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

erecting, furnishing, and equipping additions to Whiteford Elementary School; remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, and equipping and re-equipping Whiteford Elementary School; acquiring, installing, equipping, and re-equipping Whiteford Elementary School for instructional technology; erecting, remodeling, and equipping and re-equipping athletic support buildings and additions to athletic support buildings; and preparing, developing, improving, erecting, and equipping athletic fields and facilities, structures, and sites?

II. - Shall Whiteford Agricultural School District of the Counties of Monroe and Lenawee, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, for the purpose of:

preparing, developing, and improving athletic fields, including installing synthetic field turf for the baseball and softball fields?



There will be two (2) proposals on the August 6, 2024 ballot.

These ballots can be viewed in full at: [www.whiteford.k12.mi.us/our-district/bond-projects/](http://www.whiteford.k12.mi.us/our-district/bond-projects/)

### For further information, please contact:

Scott L. Huard, Ed.S., Superintendent

Phone: (734) 856-1443, Ext. 101 | Email: [scott.huard@whiteford.k12.mi.us](mailto:scott.huard@whiteford.k12.mi.us)

From the classroom...

## Elementary

### 5th Grade Spelling Bee

On February 20th, 5<sup>th</sup> grade held their annual 5th Grade Spelling Bee. All the students did an amazing job trying their best to sound out and correctly spell some very challenging words. Congratulations to this year's Spelling Bee Champion, **Hilary Miller!** Further congratulations to our top 10 finishers pictured from left to right: Hilary Miller, Marley Kemritz, Bryce Wernet, Irelyn O'Neal, Dominic Lazette, Destery Hilberath, Ava Pizio, Silas McCullough, Clay Ovall, and Carson Lockhart. We are so proud of our sensational spellers!



### 5th Grade Mini-Society

Our brilliant 5th grade students worked so hard on their Mini-Society projects! Whiteford is very proud of all of our little entrepreneurs!



### 5th Grade D.A.R.E. Graduation

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, the 5th graders celebrated their D.A.R.E. graduation. The essay readers chosen from Mrs. Shepherd's class were Kensi Miller and Clay Ovall. Mrs. Bidle's were Raegan Hubbard and Bryce Wernet. This year's D.A.R.E. Spirit Award recipients were Avery Dietz, Braunn Peters, Hudson McCormack, and Genevieve Miller. Our Keith Dressel Award recipient this year was **Marley Kemritz.**



*From the booster groups...*

### Athletic Boosters

Athletic Booster meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 6pm in the MS/HS Media Center. Come join the fun and help support Whiteford athletics!

#### Kroger Community Rewards Program

If you are not currently supporting an organization through the Kroger Community Rewards Program, please take a few minutes to register today and help support Bobcat athletics. Go to [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com), log into your account and follow the links to the Community Rewards page. Select organization number **PV787** as the donation recipient. Remember, this is free money and will not affect your fuel points!

### Music Boosters

On March 15th, our Bobcats became Wildcats in the much anticipated annual spring musical which ran Friday, March 15th through Sunday, March 17th. This year's theme was "Disney's High School Musical On Stage" and as usual, Mr. Schreiber, the cast, and all of the volunteers worked tirelessly to make this musical come alive.

High School Musical is about a star athlete, Troy Bolton (Dane DuVall), at a small-town high school falling for a nerdy beauty, Gabriella Montez (Jackie Schaefer), at a holiday karaoke party. When they return to campus, they both audition for the upcoming school musical. Meanwhile, a jealous Sharpay Evans (Avery Ellis) conspires to squelch their chances. The two must struggle to make it to auditions while also meeting their existing obligations to the basketball team and the academic decathlon.

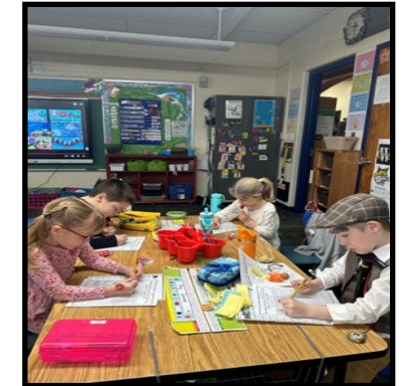


*From the classroom...*

### Elementary

#### 100th Day of School

On February 12th, 1st grade celebrated their 100th day of school, and my how our littles have aged! The little old centenarian grannies and grandpas engaged in all kinds of fun activities revolving around the number 100.



#### Reading Month

March was Reading Month in the elementary and the students enjoyed so many wonderful activities from guest speakers, readers, and their field trip to Crosswell Opera House. Special thanks to everyone who organized and participated in the various reading month events.



Guest reader Board Secretary Mike Iott read to the 4th grade students.



Guest reader Senator Joe Bellino read to the kindergarten students. He read "Grumpy Monkey" and "Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes".



Ms. Kwasniak, with the help of Bitsy, read the story "The Horse in Harry's Room".



On March 14th and 15th, students took a field trip to Crosswell Opera House to see "Last Stop On Market Street".



# Elementary Carnival & Field Day 5/17/24



# State FFA Convention Results





# Whiteford State FFA Convention Contest Results

The Whiteford FFA Chapter traveled to East Lansing, Michigan for the 96<sup>th</sup> State FFA Convention on Wednesday February 28<sup>th</sup> through Friday March 1<sup>st</sup>. Members that advanced past regionals were able to compete in State level Leadership contests. Members attending the state convention also watched FFA convention sessions, watched other FFA member's speeches and presentations, and received their own awards, including the FFA State Degree, FFA Outstanding Junior Degree, and Academic Excellence Awards.

To earn their State FFA Degree, FFA members must earn over \$3000 on their Ag/Natural Resources related job, participate in 5 FFA events above the chapter level, and perform at least 25 hours of community service. State Degree recipients are also eligible for 6 free general credits to attend MSU. The following members earned their State FFA Degrees: Kenzie Gray, Jack Iott, Jake Iott, Abby Johnson, Zach Kahn, Trent Olrich, Anna Schober, Aubrie Simmons, Margo Thomas, and Reagan Wing.

Some of our members earned their Outstanding Junior FFA Degree (for juniors). To earn their Outstanding Junior Degree, members must earn or invest \$1000 in their SAE, perform 3 FFA events above the chapter level, and do 10 hours of community service. The following members earned this degree: Ava Fielder, Isabelle Lehsten, Haley Luse, Alaina McClain, Brooklyn Mills, Libby Simmons, and Zoe Stanger earned this award.

Some of our members were recognized for their academic excellence. The following members maintain an excellent scholastic record and earned the award: Kenzie Gray, Anna Schober, Aubrie Simmons, Margo Thomas, Ava Fielder, Haley Luse, Alaina McClain, and Brooklyn Mills.

Our chapter also did a horticulture program tour where members learned about different majors and degree programs at Michigan State.

Of course, no trip is complete without a little fun. Whiteford members found time to skate at Michigan State's Munn Ice Arena, socialized at the Region 2 FFA Ice Cream Social, attended a Michigan State girls basketball game, and spent time with the Dundee, Ida, and Blissfield chapters at Zap Zone, which is a laser tag, putt-putt, and trampoline fun zone.

Whiteford FFA members earned the following results in their leadership contests:

**Ag Issues**—Team of Alaina McClain, Brooklyn Mills, Zach Kahn, Kenzie Gray, Ava Fielder, Reagan Wing, and Margo Thomas earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Gold Award. They presented the pros and cons of the increases to the AEWL migrant labor wage.

**Greenhand Public Speaking Contest**—Braelynn Chiotti earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Gold Award for her speech on butterflies as pollinators and their endangered levels.

**Ag Issues**—Team of Garrett Schalmo, Mallory Bahls, Jenna Frye, and Lana Consear earned 5<sup>th</sup> place and a Silver Award with their Ag Issue which presented the pros and cons of the State Zoning change to large clean energy projects.

Aubrie Simmons earned 6<sup>th</sup> place and a Silver Award for her mock interview, resume, cover letter, and references.

Kiera Cole earned 7<sup>th</sup> place and a Silver Award for her Junior High Public Speech about fermenting animal feed.

**Prepared Public Speaking Contest**—Zoe Stanger earned 9<sup>th</sup> place, Silver Award for her speech on beef cattle production and buying local meat.

**Greenhand Conduct of Meetings**—Team of Cooper Diesing, Brek Ruddy, Savannah Seevers, Theo Joerin, Austin Bauman, Tre Eitniar, and Laney Pirrone earned 10<sup>th</sup> place, Bronze Award. They conducted a 10 minute mock FFA meeting using parliamentary abilities and had a problem to solve.

**Junior High Conduct of Meetings**—Team of Jade Olrich, Rilee Ingram, Jackson Cousino, Carley Schlatter, Maddox Diesing, Allison Griffith, Alivia Olson earned 9<sup>th</sup> place, Bronze Award. They conducted a 10 minute mock FFA meeting using parliamentary abilities and had a problem to solve.

From the classroom...

## Middle School

Students in 7th grade life science stomata lab finished up a unit on photosynthesis. In this lab students created impressions of plant leaves using nail polish, tape, and microscope slides. Once the impressions were lifted off the leaves, students were able to further investigate and count the stomata on the surface of the leaves. Stomata are responsible for the gas exchange of carbon dioxide and oxygen which are reactants and products of the photosynthetic chemical reaction that occurs in plants.



The 8th grade science classes had a ball learning about Newton's 2nd Law of Motion. Students launched various balls to investigate the effects of friction and mass on acceleration.



Why did the Bobcats go into the woods? To make maple syrup of course! This year, Mrs. Vittore's 8<sup>th</sup> grade Ag Explore classes took on the task of making their own maple syrup using tree sap from our very own woods. The project started this last fall with students learning how to identify trees. Students then spent much of the month of February learning how to tap the maple trees and collecting sap. Once enough sap was collected (about 35 gallons), students learned about food safety and food processing so they could cook the raw tree sap down into syrup. With 5 pints of pure *Whiteford* maple syrup, the class celebrated with a pancake breakfast before heading off on spring break.

*From the classroom...*

## High School

Students in 11th and 12th grade had an amazing time on their NYC/DC trip March 10<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>. The weather was perfect and there were numerous highlights of the trip including four of the students being able to lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier! They were able to see and experience the following things:

- 30 Rock/ Rockefeller Center
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum
- Went to the top of the Empire State building at night
- Visited and climbed the Statue of Liberty
- Spent time in Times Square
- White House Tour
- Tour of the Capitol

- Sat in the House Gallery
- Saw Marine One take off from the White House
- Went up the Washington Monument
- Met Senator Bernie Sanders
- Arlington Cemetery
- Iwo Jima Memorial
- Spy Museum

From Aubrie Simmons, "I loved DC and history that you can see and be a part of. There's always something going on in DC."

From Liberty Simmons, "I loved New York City. It had an amazing vibe and the city at night with all the lights was beautiful...and, of course, it was cool to see the Statue of Liberty because my parents named me after what she stands for."



## Congratulations Class of 2024!

Commencement was held Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at Crossroads Community Church which featured performances from Senior Choir/Ensemble and Band Members, as well as speeches from some of our top graduates. Congratulations and best wishes for your next chapter!

