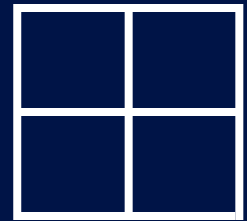


# THE WHITNALL WINDOW



- 1 Superintendent's Message 2 Class of 2017 / Color Run  
3 Directors' Corner 4 Career and Technical Ed / Makerspace  
5 Back to School 6 Personalizing Learning 7 Facilities Planning  
8 Back Cover



## THE SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

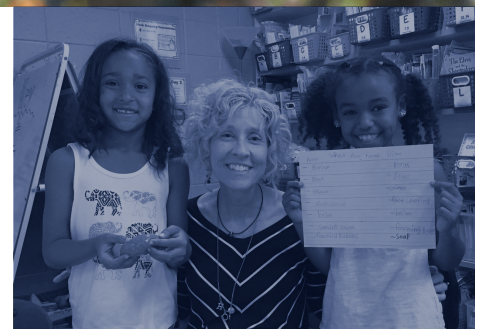
Welcome to our renamed quarterly community newsletter, *The Whitnall Window*! We want to give you a window into our district by highlighting some of our efforts and successes. I strongly encourage you to follow our social media venues for daily news and celebrations. You can also check our website, soon to be newly redesigned, for information and updates on the district. Our weekly family e-newsletter, *The Connect*, can be found on our website for residents who do not have a Whitnall learner but would like to stay in the loop. There is a lot to share when it comes to great happenings at Whitnall!

The 2017-18 school year starts my second year as superintendent at Whitnall. It is truly a privilege to serve and lead the district in its journey to become the very best it can be. This year, we are excited to continue the conversation from the *Hopes for the Whitnall Graduate* event to develop a district dashboard that represents district priorities with benchmark data and goals. At the September board meeting, we reviewed the accomplishments of the 2016-17 school year, which were due to the efforts of the team of school board members, administrators, and staff. We also shared the goals for the 2017-18 school year, which are focused on student achievement and readiness, effective communication, responsive fiscal management and planning, and district culture and climate. The annual goals can be found on our website.

While only a few weeks into the school year, we are already celebrating successful fall sports, personalizing learning efforts, a makeover of our school mascot, and continued progress on our facilities and referendum planning. We continue to foster creativity and innovation with our staff and students, with efforts such as our Makerspace and our award winning school forest.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa L. Olson, Superintendent



HOW MIGHT WE ENGAGE LEARNERS IN A WAY THAT FOSTERS INNOVATION, RISK-TAKING,  
AND EXPLORATION TO ATTAIN PERSONAL LEARNING GOALS WITHOUT THE FEAR OF FAILURE?

# The Class of 2017



## Senior Walk

Before walking across the graduation stage, the class of 2017 walked through the halls of where it all began, our elementary schools. They reminisced with their classmates, reconnected with their past teachers, and showed the elementary students what the future holds. The elementary students participated by crafting congratulatory signs and offering their support in the forms of high fives, cheers, and applause.

For the seniors, there were smiles, there were tears, and there was an overwhelming sense of things coming full circle. It was the first year we did this, but it will not be the last. The senior walk was too special to not make it a tradition.

## Graduation

June 4 | 1,170 attendees

189 graduates

congrats grads

AVG  
GPA  
3.2



## Edgerton Color Run 2017



At the end of last school year, Edgerton Elementary's PTO organized an event that was as fun as it was successful. Accompanied by a DJ, students, families, and staff members ran a course with frequent blasts of color. Participants started the run in white t-shirts and crossed the finish line covered from head to toe in every color of the rainbow! To participate, you just had to make a donation toward Edgerton. The event ended up raising over \$20,000, and all of the money raised is going toward inclusive additions to Edgerton's playground. The additions will be sensory friendly (for students with autism) and handicap accessible.

# The Directors' Corner



**Lynn LeRoy** director of teaching and learning

My name is Lynn LeRoy, and - as of July 1, 2017 - I am serving as the Director of Teaching and Learning for the Whitnall School District. This fall marks the beginning of my 12th year with Whitnall and my 28th year in education. I have previously served WSD in the capacity of teacher, instructional coach, and middle school principal.

The Teaching and Learning department supports educators in the design and implementation of courses and learning experiences that will provide students with the knowledge, skills, and tools to become productive contributors within and beyond our Whitnall community. We will also work with the most current and relevant data to assess areas of strength and guide improvement efforts.

Currently, our overarching focus is learning. While this may sound odd coming from an educational organization, we have come to discover that much of what has traditionally been done in schools is based more upon compliance than true learning. Student learning tends not to be driven by natural curiosity, but rather by how one will be graded. Our society in general has created a culture of needing "good grades," even though students don't necessarily remember what they have "learned" from one year to the next. The WSD Teaching and Learning department is committed to providing true learning.



**Michael Williamson** director of business services

This October, I will have completed my first full year with the Whitnall School District. I'm entering my fifth year as a Director of Business Services, with previous experience in two other districts. It has been a pleasure to be part of an organization and community that is fully invested in the success of students.

As the Director of Business Services, I oversee the Business Office, Buildings and Grounds, Technology Services, and Food Service. Each of these departments have excellent managers that are passionate about the work they do. As the majority of them are also in their first year with Whitnall, we have many fresh perspectives in the district. We hope to continue to build upon the practices that have clearly worked and fine-tune processes when need be.

Personally, I will continue to work with the Board of Education to solidify a long-term financial plan with metrics that are meaningful to the community. I will continue to hold finance sessions periodically throughout the year to educate attendees about Whitnall's financial opportunities and challenges. Finally, I'm looking forward to getting out into the community more often this year and forging partnerships and relationships.



**Jackie Winter** director of pupil services

My name is Jackie Winter, and it is my pleasure to serve as the Director of Pupil Services. My Whitnall journey started at Hales Corners Elementary in 1997 as a special educator. I moved from HCE to WMS to WHS, from special educator to assistant principal to principal. From 2012 to 2017, I served as high school principal, and it is with great excitement that I return to focusing on special education services.

The field of pupil services and special education is rapidly changing. Our district is changing with it and is committed to providing services that focus on student needs. We will provide not only academic support, but social emotional support. We have added two school social workers to our pupil services team and have moved the team into buildings in order to provide direct services to students, families, and staff members.

We have a very skilled special education staff who will continue to provide high quality services that meet needs identified through individual student plans. We will be focusing on providing opportunities for families to connect with Whitnall, community organizations, and one another.

Our work aims to positively impact the following: student achievement, graduation rate, attendance, discipline, learning plans, academic career planning, and--above all--the learner experience.

# Career and Technical Education



Career and technical education (CTE) is aimed at preparing students for a wide range of careers through rigorous academic and technical standards. In addition, CTE focuses on critical workplace skills such as communication, problem solving, and critical thinking. CTE replaces the term vocational education, which had been used to describe the subject areas of agriculture, business, marketing, technology, engineering (industrial arts), family and consumer science (home economics), and health science. CTE integrates work-based learning to enhance business and education partnerships while providing students with opportunities to reinforce skills and behaviors necessary in the workforce.

Starting this school year, Scott Breuning will be serving as the CTE Coordinator for the Whitnall School District. His primary focus areas will be to strengthen our CTE program and course offerings, build business and education partnership, increase work-based learning opportunities, and integrate career readiness skills into all programs of study. Prior to his most recent four years as the Athletic and Activities Director at Whitnall High School, Scott was a technology and engineering teacher.

In his role as CTE Coordinator, Scott will also be working with our counselors to implement Academic and Career Plans (ACP) for our students grades 6-12. ACP is both a process and product that focuses on providing students and their families with the tools necessary to make better informed choices about post-secondary transitions to adulthood. Each student will develop individual goals and prepare a personal plan for achieving those goals based on interests, aptitudes, and post-secondary plans. The Whitnall School District is committed to assuring that each student has the skills to be ready for college, career, and life. By providing a more concentrated effort to career readiness, we are headed in the right direction.

## Make a Space for Makerspace



Maker Faire, Hackerspace, Fab Lab, Makerspace, DIYer: these are the terms of the new “maker” generation. This movement allows students to learn by doing. A Makerspace is a place where **innovation, creativity, and collaboration** collide with both low and high tech.

The Whitnall School District is embarking on a mission to bring hands-on, self-guided learning back, breathing new life into old teaching philosophies. The goal is to provide opportunities for students to choose what they want to create in **an open environment**. It truly puts learning back in the hands of students and uses the teachers as facilitators to assist rather than control learning.

This year, the middle school introduced a Makerspace. The laboratory gives students access to a design studio and lots of equipment, including a 3D printer, a laser engraver, and more!

The projects that students will be creating will incorporate concepts acquired in core classes such as science, math, and English. The goal is to have students **apply knowledge** and develop those ever-critical connections among all courses. Many of the projects require students to work in group situations; fostering essential communication skills is a large part of the Makerspace program.

WMS 6th, 7th, and 8th graders chose to enroll in the Makerspace course affectionately titled Whitnall M.A.D.E., which stands for Manufacturing, Automation, Design, and Engineering. Students will **explore** these four components in the course. The top photo to the left shows their first project, custom nameplates for our board members!

The district looks to expand the Makerspace model into both the elementary and high school levels as the year progresses.





# Back to School



**PROUD**  
**HISTORY**  
**BRIGHT**  
**FUTURE**

# Personalizing Learning

The recent emphasis on shifting our schools from an institutionalized approach to an individualized approach has brought personalizing learning to the forefront. Personalizing learning refers to instruction in which the pace of learning and style of teaching are optimized for each student's needs. The learning activities are created to be both meaningful and relevant to learners, tapping into their interests and strengthening their exploration and self-discovery.

It is important to recognize that personalizing learning cannot have a singular definition; community priorities, culture, curricular choices, and available resources all influence the shape personalizing learning takes in any given environment. However, across the many definitions, the following similarities emerge: **the pace of learning is adjustable, instructional approaches are flexible, learning is driven by learner interests, learning is often supported by technology, and learners are given choice in what, how, when, and where they learn.**

Whitnall School District began the journey of personalizing learning in 2013-14 by reviewing research and visiting school districts who had implemented different models of learning. In 2014-15, a section for personalizing learning was created in both elementary schools. In 2015-16, this was expanded to encompass all of grade 4 in both elementary schools. After continued research and parent and student input, Whitnall has expanded personalizing learning K-5, 6-8, and into grade 9. We will continue on this journey to unleashing the potential of each learner!

## at the elementary schools

More flexible learning spaces have been added! By removing walls between classrooms, there is more space for elementary students to interact with other classes and more space for co-teaching, which allows for both varying instruction style and providing individual attention to students who need it (whether they need more or less time) without taking them away from their peers.

Pictured to the right is a new flexible learning space at Hales Corners Elementary. This room is ready for all types of learning!



## at the middle school

A new schedule has been implemented. At the start of each day, learners have "advisory time," which entails activities to build relationships between students and staff and between students and their classmates. The rest of the day is a rotation through classes that may find their basis in a traditional subject--such as science, English, and math--but that integrate all subjects and offer hands-on learning experiences.

Pictured to the left is an advisory time being run by WMS Principal, Laura Jennaro!



## at the high school

Teachers have developed seminar courses meant to engage multiple subjects around a single topic that would interest students. Some of the topics include crime-scene investigation, archaeology, home automation, and a superheroes-and-villains class.

Pictured to the right are plants being studied by learners in a seminar course that focuses on the Whitnall School Forest!



# Facilities Planning

During the 2016-17 school year, the Whitnall School District engaged stakeholders to build a collective vision for the future of learning. Continuing to build upon that vision also includes planning for our facilities.

Due to state aid calculations for 2016-17, Whitnall was in a unique place to utilize energy efficiency funding, which allowed the district to exceed the revenue cap for energy efficiency projects. We completed the high school classroom energy projects, which were previously part of the referendum question in April 2015. While we were not able to address all of the energy efficiency projects covered in the referendum proposal, the total will be about \$1.3 million in 2016-17 and \$.6 million in 2017-18.

The Board approved going to RFP for architectural services in August 2016. Proposals were accepted through September 30, and the Finance & Facilities Committee met to research and review various processes (design/bid/build, design/build, etc.) and pros and cons for school districts when there is a referendum needed for funding. The Committee met again in October 2016 to review proposals and schedule interviews. The Committee met again in early November, and the board approved the recommendation of Bray Architects at the end of November.

During December through April, Bray Architects attended personalizing learning focus groups and informational meetings with parents and community members. In May, the district conducted a survey through School Perceptions to gather information on learning priorities and areas of focus from all its stakeholders. That information was reviewed in June 2017 at the *Hopes for the Whitnall Graduate* event.

In July and August, Bray Architects shared their comprehensive facilities study of all four buildings, as well as a summary document, with the Board. Those documents are available on our website. Based upon the needs in the study, a second survey is being sent out to residents on or around October 3. Residents will be asked to prioritize the facilities needs for all the buildings and provide the level of support for a referendum to support these facilities needs. The board will then review the survey results in early November to determine the highest priorities and the amount that would be supported through a referendum. A tentative referendum date would be on Tuesday, April 2, 2018.



NEEDS SUMMARY



## 3 Priority Areas

- School Safety
- Building Systems & Infrastructure
- Learning Spaces

# COMPLETE YOUR SURVEY BY **OCTOBER 23**

## In Need of Leaf Raking?

Do you, a neighbor, friend, or family member need extra help cleaning up the yard this fall? As a community service project, students in the Whitnall Chapter of the National Honor Society will visit senior citizens in the community and rake their yards for free. This will occur on the following dates:

Franklin: Saturday, Oct. 21  
Hales Corners: Monday, Oct. 23  
Greenfield: Saturday, Oct. 28

Students will visit between 9am and 1pm on those dates. The homeowner must be present when the students arrive. Students are not allowed to accept tips.

If interested, please email or call and leave a message with your name, phone number, and address:

Ben Krey, Advisor | 414.525.8561 | [bkrey@whitnall.com](mailto:bkrey@whitnall.com)  
Jeff Benjamin, Advisor | 414.525.8586 | [jbenjamin@whitnall.com](mailto:jbenjamin@whitnall.com)



# THE WHITNALL WINDOW

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414.525.8400  
www.whitnall.com

## WSD Board of Education

Jonathan Cagle | President | Hales Corners | Since 2014  
Quin Brunette | Vice-President | Greenfield | Since 2012  
Kevin Stachowiak | Clerk | Hales Corners | Since 2015  
Stephanie Richter | Treasurer | Hales Corners | Since 2010  
LuAnn Bird | Member | Hales Corners | Since 2013  
Nancy Zaborowski | Member | Greenfield | Since 2008  
Jon Jones | Member | Franklin | Since 2014

## THE WHS FALL PLAY! Almost, Maine

by John Cariani

November 3, 4, 10, 11 at 7:30 PM  
November 5 at 2:00 PM

Adults \$12 | Students/Seniors \$8

An enormous **thank you** to the **Whitnall Schools Foundation** for a donation that made our mascot makeover possible! Flash is feeling fresh!



Newsletter feedback?  
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