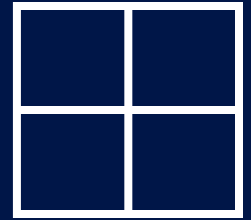


THE WHITNALL WINDOW

FALL 2020



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THE SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to talk about something other than the pandemic. And I hope you all will appreciate the opportunity to *hear* about something other than the pandemic. Let's take a break and discuss something else, at least for a page. Recently, Whitnall has reengaged in our strategic planning work. For a while, we were far more focused on how to offer school during a... nevermind. We are making progress on key pieces of our strategic plan, such as student achievement and unifying culture.

We have asked ourselves how we can better measure student achievement, and the answer seems to be by going beyond standardized tests, by not only measuring achievement, but by also measuring progress and growth, and by doing so on a much more personal level. We are developing district assessments and internal metrics, so that every student and every family can receive a more comprehensive, personalized, and useful picture of achievement.

We are also continuing work on unifying culture by conducting staff engagement surveys. Until we begin measuring the culture within our district, we won't be able to track our progress. The staff engagement surveys will ask questions related to our district values--advancement, belonging, and courage. We plan to review and share the results with all staff and develop action plans with an internal committee. My annual goal is also focused around unifying culture; I plan to further develop comprehensive roles and responsibilities throughout all positions in the district to assist in communication and accountability, which are key components of our strategic plan.

We will continue to provide updates on our strategic planning work. Please watch for those updates in future communications. Yes, you can look forward to more non-pandemic-related updates!



Lisa L. Olson

Dr. Lisa L. Olson, Superintendent

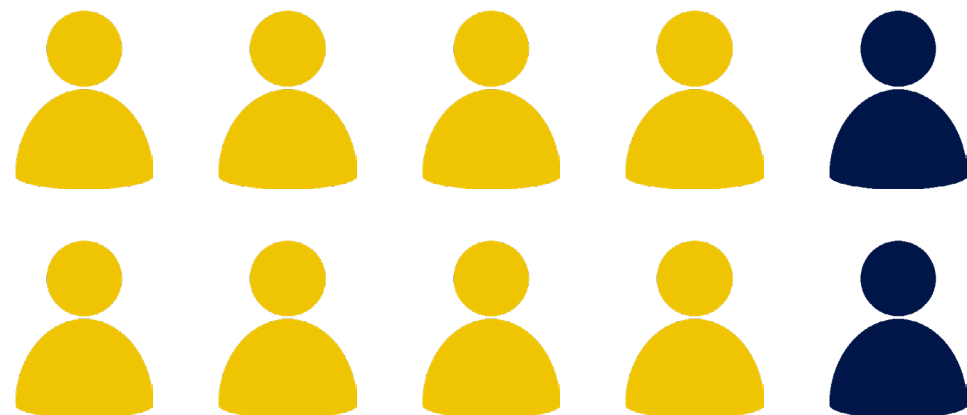
In the last issue of the Whitnall Window, we shared how we ended the 2019-20 school year. We also shared a little bit about the reopening planning that occurred throughout the summer. Now, we would like to share how we ended up starting the 2020-21 school year and how things are progressing.



When we went with a learning model that allowed for parents to choose, we ended up with about a 80/20 split. 80.9 % of students returned to in-person learning while 19.1% of students began the school year virtually. The breakdown by school is as follows:

WHITNALL HIGH SCHOOL	82.8%	17.2%
WHITNALL MIDDLE SCHOOL	83.6%	16.4%
EDGERTON ELEMENTARY	70.8%	29.2%
HALES CORNERS ELEMENTARY	82.0%	18.0%

Each level had its own considerations when it came to staffing distance learning, because each level has unique needs, opportunities, numbers, schedules, etc. After much planning, we were able to offer the following: At the elementary level, we reassigned Whitnall teachers to distance sections and hired new teachers for distance sections, when it was necessary. At the middle school level, we reassigned Whitnall teachers to distance sections. And at the high school level, we offered courses through a company called Edmentum and hired new Whitnall teachers to teach those courses. Beyond the classroom, the buildings have worked to involve distance learners in school-wide opportunities and events such as co-curriculars, assemblies, etc. While some of our students are learning in person, and some of our students are learning virtually, we are committed to providing ALL Whitnall students with a positive educational experience. We're all in!

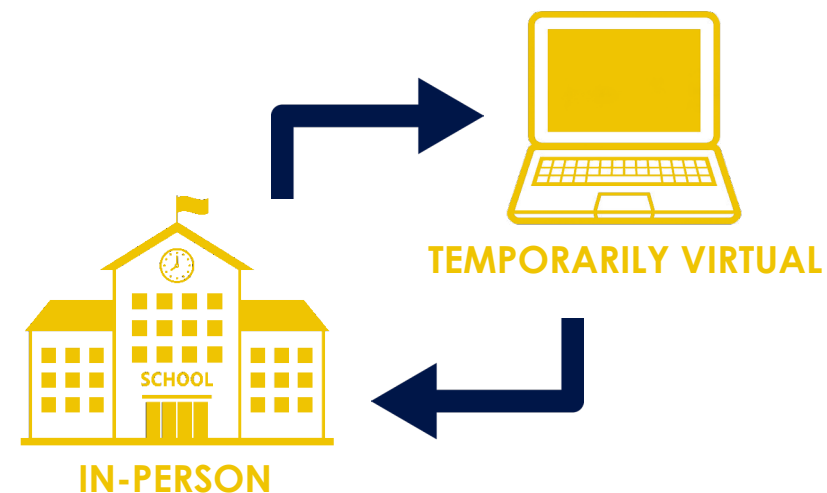


In order to monitor and communicate the viability of our in-person offering, we developed metrics and a live dashboard. The dashboard is updated every Sunday evening and measures the following things:

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS	STUDENT ABSENCES RELATED TO COVID-19 STAFF ABSENCES RELATED TO COVID-19 SUBSTITUTE AVAILABILITY WSD SAFETY PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES MASK WEARING COHORTING/SOCIAL DISTANCING VIRTUAL LEARNING FUNCTIONALITY
MEDICAL/HEALTH FACTORS	CASE BURDEN RATE (FRANKLIN) CASE BURDEN RATE (GREENFIELD) CASE BURDEN RATE (HALES CORNERS) % POSITIVE TEST (MKE COUNTY) HOSPITAL ICU STATUS (MKE COUNTY) CONTACT TRACING CAPACITY R (REPRODUCTIVE) DATA (MKE COUNTY SUBURBS)

To see definitions of each of the factors, their metrics, and the weekly ratings, you can access our dashboard by visiting the Navigating 20-21 page on our website. If you view the dashboard, you will see how each factor is given a rating for the week. Each factor can be either green (good), yellow (okay), orange (concerning), or red (poor). As more and more factors enter the orange and red phases, a temporary move to virtual learning is more likely, with staff absences and substitute availability being the most impactful. Staff and student absences related to COVID-19 are reported twice weekly in a separate document, which can also be found on our Navigating 20-21 page. The document is named Whitnall Student and Staff Case Data, and it shows the number of isolations and quarantines among both students and staff at each building. Quarantine numbers represent those who have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive, while isolation numbers represent actual positive cases. In both instances, learning and teaching continues virtually. When these numbers get to a point where accommodating and covering becomes too difficult, we must move to temporary virtual learning. Unfortunately, this happened at the high school and the middle school in mid-November. Fortunately, our teachers spent the fall preparing for a seamless transition to virtual learning, in case the need arose, and the shift went well. Temporary virtual learning allows a building to reset; and while we hope it does not happen often, we are confident in its effectiveness and our readiness. We plan to continue with our current learning model for second semester, offering both in-person and distance learning, knowing that temporary virtual learning is a possibility at any point, at any of our buildings.

IN-PERSON LEARNERS



DISTANCE LEARNERS



STUDENT | JENNA RODERICK

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. Approximately 1.5 million high school students enter the competition each year by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Whitnall High School student Jenna Roderick has been named one of the 16,000 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists! Less than 1% of students nationwide score high enough to be named a semifinalist in this competition. Jenna is a senior this year, and she is currently applying to colleges and plans on majoring in physics. Jenna says that she has always valued academics and believes that her commitment to her schoolwork prepared her for the test. Jenna has been in band since fifth grade and thinks music--specifically playing the clarinet--has helped strengthen her brain. Jenna is also a member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta. She has also joined Art Club, because she believes it is important to have a creative outlet. We are so proud of Jenna, and we know she will go on to do great things. Maybe work for NASA one day? Congratulations, Jenna!



HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS & CLUBS

With the football season being moved to the spring, the homecoming game could no longer be the reason for a fall Spirit Week. But our high school students figured they didn't need a reason to showcase their Whitnall pride! In lieu of the traditional homecoming parade, high school students created banners for their teams and clubs. The banners were then hung throughout the school!



STAFF | BREA SANDERS

Health professionals all around the world are working harder than ever. And the same is true right here at Whitnall. Our district nurse, Brea Sanders, was increased from part time to full time to allow for new and additional responsibilities related to COVID-19. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, internal contact tracing, tracking of case data, collaborating with the local health departments, and educating families on pandemic-related precautions. Brea has trained other health services employees in the district to assist her in contact tracing and to adequately respond to COVID-19. These employees have also worked incredibly hard in responding to the pandemic. Brea was heavily involved in making adjustments to the schools' health rooms to ensure that the spaces followed the Department of Health Services' guidelines. In addition to these more official responsibilities (and her pre-COVID-19 responsibilities), Brea cites a considerable increase in communication with staff, students, and families. She has definitely become the go-to person for many concerns and questions this school year. We would like to thank Brea and all of our health services employees for their commitment to keeping Whitnall safe, not only this year, but always.



DRESS UP DAYS

Each of our schools participated in Spirit Week by doing dress up days! There was Elementary School Style Day at Whitnall High School, Tie Dye Day at Edgerton Elementary, Pajama Day at Hales Corners Elementary, Throwback Thursday at Whitnall Middle School, and more! All of the buildings ended the week with Whitnall Pride Day!



ALUMNUS | TYLER HERRO

As many know, 2018 graduate Tyler Herro was drafted into the NBA in the summer of 2019. Beyond that initial accomplishment, Tyler has had an incredibly successful year with the Miami Heat. He scored the most 3-pointers by a rookie in the NBA Finals, he holds the record for a rookie with the most consecutive games scoring double figures, and he scored an impressive 37 points during a single game--the most ever for a rookie in a playoff game. Perhaps most impressive of all is that Tyler is the youngest player to start in the history of NBA Finals! Some additional accomplishments include scoring the most 3-pointers by a rookie during a single postseason run, scoring the fourth most points ever for a rookie during postseason, and being named NBA All-Rookie 2nd Team. Through all of this, Tyler remains connected to Whitnall. Just last May, during the district closure, he sent a video of encouragement to learners at Edgerton Elementary, having been an Edgerton student himself. We are proud of Tyler's accomplishments and expect there will be many more!



FALCON FUNDRAISER

As an opportunity for families and community members to show *their* Whitnall pride, the booster club offered a lawn painting of a Whitnall falcon. They also offered custom falcon pallets for those households without a front lawn. Whitnall Cheer did the lawn painting, and our SkillsUSA team made the pallets! We loved seeing so many falcons throughout the community. All of the money raised will go directly towards supporting our students. Thank you, Whitnall Falcon Booster Club!



BUSINESS HONOR ROLL

The Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) has recognized four local businesses for partnering with Whitnall through our Youth Apprenticeship program. Whitnall board members, our superintendent, and program lead Tom Hermann visited the businesses to present the WASB Business Honor Roll certificates. Thank you to Aurora, AMCSI, Lexington Heritage, and iit/SourceTech for providing our students with incredible opportunities!



THERAPY DOG GIZMO

The Greenfield Police Department has a new member--Gizmo! Gizmo is a seven-month-old goldendoodle, and he is in training to receive his therapy K9 certification. Chief Jay Johnson and Captain Scott Zienkiewicz thought that a therapy dog would be a positive offering for Whitnall students and staff during this difficult time. Our school resource officer, Officer Susie, is Gizmo's handler, and Gizmo enjoys coming to school every day to greet students and staff. Thank you to the Greenfield Police Department for the adorable addition! We are excited for Gizmo to complete his training so he can begin supporting the Whitnall community. He already brings so much joy as he walks the halls and visits classrooms. Welcome, Gizmo!



SKATEPARK ART CONTEST

The City of Greenfield is planning to bring back Turf Skatepark, and they are involving the community in their efforts. The skatepark, originally opened in 1979 as Surfin' Turf, will have its third life as a free to use Greenfield public park. Surfin' Turf closed in 1982 and was reopened in 1987 as the Turf. At that time, it was one of only a handful of skateparks in America, and it was the only indoor skatepark in the country. The Turf attracted professional and amateur skateboarders from around the world, including perhaps the most famous skateboarder of all time, Tony Hawk. In 1996, as skateboarding lost popularity, the Turf closed its doors. But with a growing return to the pastime and with reverence for the site's history, the City of Greenfield is resurrecting the skatepark. As the city works on designing and building the skatepark, they are creating opportunities for the community to get involved. One of these opportunities was a skateboard design contest. Art students from Whitnall High School entered the contest, and sophomore Samantha Fulbright's design took first place! The design is featured on the right. Congratulations to Samantha, and good luck to the City of Greenfield as they move forward with their plans. We hope the Turf Skatepark will give Whitnall students a place in the community where they can gather, socialize, and showcase their talents, whether those talents are riding on a skateboard or painting on one!



ADVANCEMENT BELONGING COURAGE ADVANCEMENT BELONGING COURAGE



PROUD
HISTORY
BRIGHT
FUTURE

THE WHITNALL WINDOW

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Greenfield, WI 53228
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www.whitnall.com

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Karen Mikolainis Member, Hales Corners, Since 2019
Jesse Stachowiak Member, Greenfield, Since 2020
Nancy Zaborowski Member, Greenfield, Since 2008



BOARD UPDATES

NEW DIRECTORY | LIVE STREAMING | COMMUNICATION

The board has a new and improved directory page on our website! From the homepage, go to District > Board of Education > Board Directory. School board meetings are now being live streamed so community members can attend virtually! You can access the live streams by going to our YouTube channel. The board will begin communicating via a dedicated section in the Whitnall Window; please look for this in future editions!

Newsletter feedback?
Send to
lvasquez@whitnall.com

Follow us on social media!



@whitnallschools for all three!