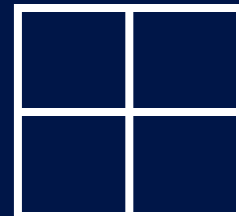


THE WHITNALL WINDOW

FALL 2021



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THE SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanksgiving is a time of gratitude and reflection. It is a time to pause before the hustle and bustle of the holidays. It is a time to focus on the good in our lives and remain hopeful for what is to come. I know that hope can be a precarious feeling these days, but the acknowledgment and expression of hope allows us to remain optimistic. One way to remain optimistic about the future is to recognize what there is to be grateful for in the present and to believe that those things will endure.

I am grateful for the events and activities that have returned this school year, like Homecoming and all of its festivities, the HCE Harvest Parade, and live theatre at WHS. I am equally grateful to see new events and activities like the EES pancake breakfast and the WMS Veterans Day celebration. Beyond a return to fun events and activities, we have also been able to focus our attention back to our strategic plan and academic achievement. I want to express my sincere appreciation for the commitment of the board and our Whitnall educators to prioritize student learning during these past 20 months, and I am optimistic that that same commitment will continue as we address areas for improvement.

I would also like to express my appreciation for our families, who continue to work alongside the district as we navigate the current uncertainty. And thank you to the community as a whole for your continued support. This Thanksgiving, and all year long, I am thankful to be a part of Whitnall.



Lisa L. Olson

Dr. Lisa L. Olson, Superintendent

#whitnALLIN

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



HOMECOMING SPIRIT WEEK

Each of our schools participated in Spirit Week by doing dress up days! There was Tacky Tourist Day at Whitnall High School, Pajama Day at Whitnall Middle School, Color Day at Edgerton Elementary, Country Western Day at Hales Corners Elementary, and more! All of the buildings ended the week with Whitnall Pride Day, which provided the perfect attire for attending the Homecoming Parade!



HOMECOMING PARADE



COLLABORATION

The Whitnall School Board has continued holding joint work sessions with administration to discuss moving the district forward. These joint work sessions are a great example of our board's collaborate and advancement-focused approach. We used the photos taken at the latest joint work session when we posted on social media for #SchoolBoardWeek (October 3-9). With the photos, which can be seen below, we shared the following message: It's School Board Week! Join us in thanking our incredible school board members for their dedication to our district. They put so much time and care into being representatives for the community and advocates for learning and public education. They are motivated by the desire to do what is best for our students, staff, and families. We are so thankful.



WEBSITE UPDATES

The Board of Education section of our website was recently revamped. In addition to reorganizing and cleaning up the pages, we added a more thorough board directory and a page entitled Board Operations, which answers some frequently asked questions about how a school board operates. The Board Operations page features information on types of board meetings, board action protocol, public participation, and more! We encourage everyone to visit the Board of Education section of our website, refamiliarize yourself with the traditional pages (Schedule, Agendas & Minutes, Policies, etc), and check out the new ones (Board Directory and Board Operations)!



INVOLVEMENT

Our school board members have continued to grow through their involvement with the Wisconsin Association of School Boards. On October 19, Vice President Quin Brunette attended the WASB regional meeting (top photo). He networked with other Wisconsin school board members and heard a presentation on the 2021-23 state budget from the WASB government relations staff. At the October 25 board meeting, four of our board members were recognized for advancing to a new WASB achievement level (bottom photo). WASB achievement levels range from 1-5, with 5 being the highest honor. Jonathan Cagle, Kevin Stachowiak, and Nancy Zaborowski all advanced to Level 2, and Karen Mikolainis achieved Level 1 status. Quin Brunette currently has a Level 3 status! Throughout the fall, President Jonathan Cagle has attended WASB President Meetings, where school board presidents from throughout the state come together to learn about things such as how to most effectively run a school board meeting and how to remain compliant with the legal aspects of a school board.

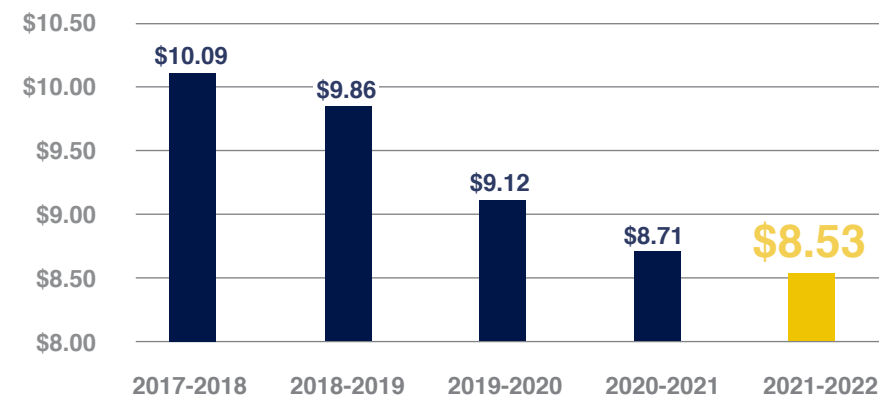


BUDGET, MILL RATE, & TAX LEVY

In utilizing the funds allocated to Whitnall by the State of Wisconsin and local taxpayers, we were able to create both a balanced budget and decrease the local tax levy and mill rate.

While there will be no additional state funding for school districts for the next two years, based on the governor's state budget, we were able to keep a projected balanced budget for the 2021-22 school year. A district's total revenue comes from four main sources: local taxes, state sources, federal sources, and payments from other districts. See the pie chart below for this year's breakdown. We will utilize federal ESSER funds when possible to help defray some allowable costs under the strict spending guidelines of those funds. ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) dollars are part of the American Rescue Plan and are provided to school districts to help sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the pandemic on the nation's students. We are also facing some other challenges in our current budget, such as very high health insurance costs, substitute teacher shortages, potential high cost special education expenses, and continued COVID protocol expenses. The district will continue to monitor these costs and work diligently to adjust the current strategy when necessary to stay within the current budget.

The mill rate has decreased nearly 15.5% since the 2017-18 school year and decreased 2.07% this year (from \$8.71 to \$8.53). Mill rate refers to, on average across the district, how many dollars a taxpayer will pay in the school portion of their tax bill for every \$1,000 of property value. The school portion of one's tax bill can fluctuate from the average based on a number of factors including your specific municipality's property values. Whitnall succeeded in decreasing the school tax rate overall, but we do not control how all of your taxes get allocated. The school district reports the mill rate based on equalized property values across the district as reported by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. The tax levy, which is the total tax that all community members pay to fund the district, has decreased nearly 16% since the 2017-18 school year and decreased yet again this year.



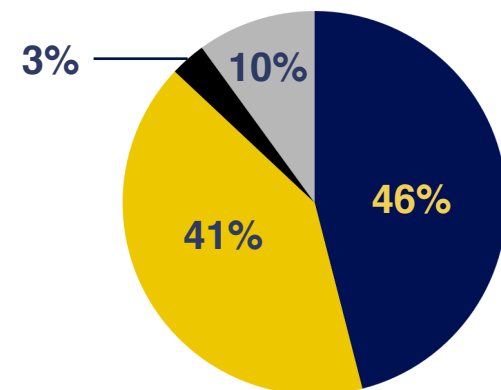
MILL RATE



REVENUE BREAKDOWN



- LOCAL TAXES
- STATE SOURCES
- PAYMENTS FROM OTHER DISTRICTS
- FEDERAL SOURCES



COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT

Through sponsorships from local businesses, Falcon Field got a brand new video scoreboard! We celebrated by hosting a community movie night on October 15. There were games and inflatables. There were local fire, ambulance, and police vehicles to tour. And finally, Whitnall families got concessions, sat on Falcon Field, and watched a movie on the new board! Thank you to our All On Board sponsors (listed below). Thank you to our DECA and NHS students, who helped run the event. And thank you to Greenfield Police and Greenfield Fire & Rescue for participating!



All On Board Sponsors: Burghardt Sporting Goods, Festival Foods, Midwest Orthopedic, CG Schmidt, Bridgewater Performance, Holz Motors, The Jewelry Center, Hales Corners & Greendale Community Alliance, Quin Brunette Professional Painting.

VETERANS DAY

On Veterans Day, Whitnall Middle School hosted a very special celebration. First, there was a ceremony to honor local veterans. Accompanied by the WMS band and WMS choir, students presented the veterans with original artwork and money raised for a veteran foundation. The veterans were recognized and shared their experiences with students. Following the ceremony, there were panel discussions, lessons on the history of Veterans Day, tours of an artifact room, and more!

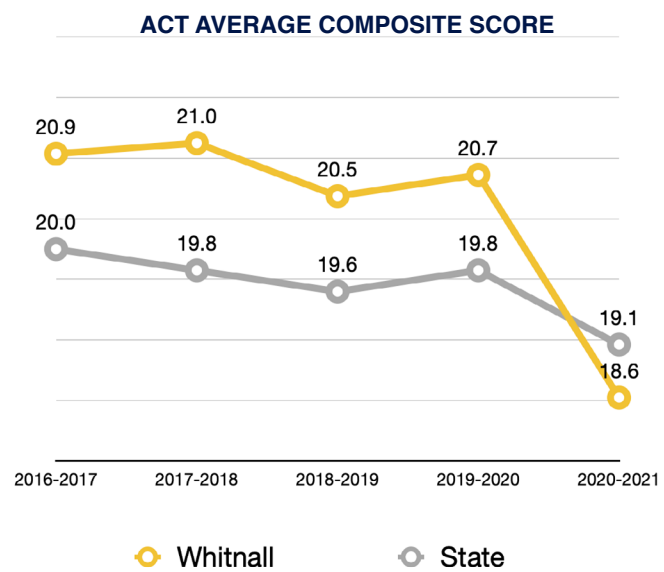
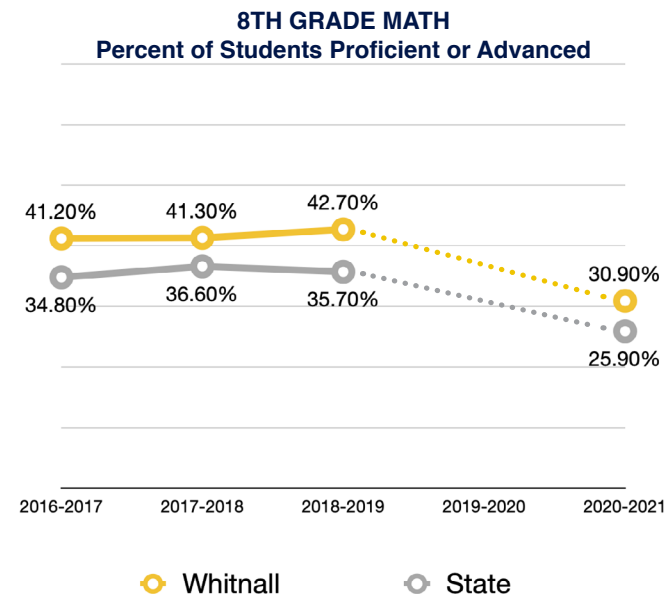
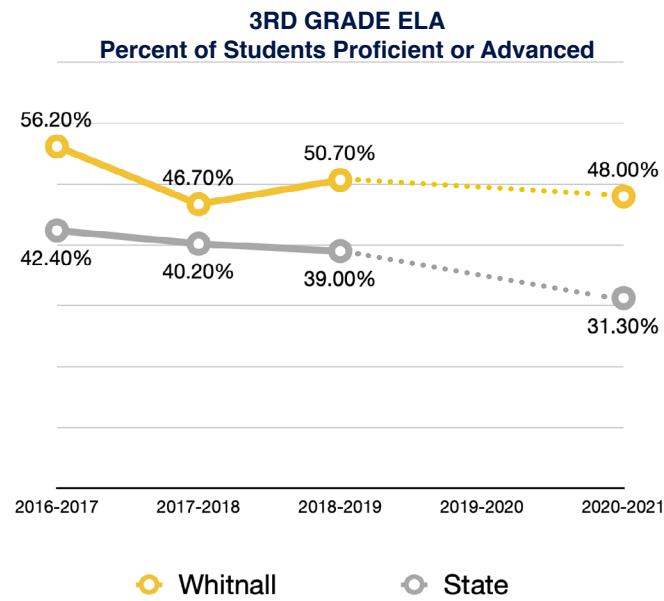
A special thank you to WMS student participants, WHS National Honor Society students, the WMS PTO, Olive Garden, Starbucks, Meijer Bakery, VFW Posts 10394 & 8343, and the Fisher House for making the day memorable for the veterans and students.



6 | STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Whitnall School District continues to ensure that every graduate is prepared to realize their full potential to have a positive impact on both local and global communities. Annually, our 3rd-8th graders and 10th grade students take the Wisconsin State Forward Exam. Additionally, our 11th grade students take the ACT exam as our state test. The 3rd grade English Language Arts (ELA) data, the 8th grade math data, and the 11th grade ACT results are key indicators for our district to ensure that our students are on track for graduation and future success. These three data points are also used as key factors for the district's state report card.

Whitnall's 3rd grade ELA achievement results of 48% proficient or advanced surpassed the state average of 31.3%. Additionally, Whitnall's 8th grade math achievement results of 30.9% proficient or advanced also stayed above the state average of 25.9%.



In contrast to our above state average scores in 3rd grade ELA and 8th grade math, our ACT average composite score of 18.6 fell below the state average of 19.1. We noticed the drop in spring and had time to respond for the current school year. The Whitnall School District hired four additional core content teachers at the high school (ELA, math, science, social studies) with ESSER dollars in order to:

- Address re-entry of virtual students
- Manage student-teacher ratio
- Create credit-recovery courses with a rigorous curriculum
- Lead 7-12th grade curriculum alignment to address learning gaps

For a full presentation on student achievement comparables, visit the Agendas & Minutes page of our website. The presentation was part of our November 8 school board meeting. You can also access the presentation directly by typing in this URL: <https://bit.ly/3D41Jx3>.



ADVANCEMENT BELONGING COURAGE ADVANCEMENT BELONGING COURAGE



**PROUD
HISTORY
BRIGHT
FUTURE**

THE WHITNALL WINDOW

Non-Profit
Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee,
WI
Permit No.1



Whitnall School District
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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
Steven Butz Treasurer, Greenfield, Since 2018
Karen Mikolainis Member, Hales Corners, Since 2019
Jesse Stachowiak Member, Greenfield, Since 2020
Nancy Zaborowski Member, Greenfield, Since 2008



WHITNALL THEATRE

Live theatre has returned at Whitnall! Over the summer, we offered a K-12 theatre course, which culminated with a performance of The Lion King. Whitnall High School's fall play was a hilarious show entitled The Play That Goes Wrong. Don't miss the spring musical, with performances the weekend of April 29. We are excited to announce that the show will be Legally Blonde!

Newsletter feedback?
Send to
lvasquez@whitnall.com

Follow us on social media!



@whitnallschools for all three!