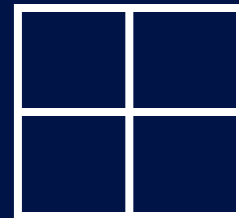


# THE WHITNALL WINDOW

SUMMER 2019



**1 SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE 2 RETIREES & PAY DAY 3 REFERENDUM  
4-5 CLASS OF 2019 6 STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS 7 SPRING PHOTOS 8 BACK COVER**

## THE SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Growing up, I always knew when company was coming over. I would be instructed to pick up my toys, I would be asked to help clean the house, and I would be reminded of how to welcome a guest. It feels a bit like that here at Whitnall as we prepare to open our doors to our students, families, and community members and unveil our updated facilities. Rather than toys, we're putting away bulldozers. Rather than dusting shelves, we're vacuuming sawdust. And rather than offering company something to drink, we're offering our students new learning spaces that are safer, more functional, and more inspiring. We will be holding a ribbon cutting and open house event ("The All In Drop In") on August 28th. More details on this event can be found on page three of this newsletter. We cannot wait to show the community our updated facilities.



While our buildings underwent construction, so did our vision for the Whitnall School District. This summer, we have been working on continuous improvement, expanding our definition of "we're all in" and developing our three-year plan. And while our building construction is winding down, our continuous improvement work is still in full swing. Watch for future updates on this work.

Please consider signing up for the electronic companion to this newsletter. The Whitnall Window e-Newsletter is not replacing the print version of the Whitnall Window, but allowing us to communicate more frequently with those community members who wish to be even more engaged. If you are interested, visit our website and sign up on the home page!

Before we open our doors for the 2019-2020 school year, take a look through our window.

*Lisa R. Olson*

Dr. Lisa L. Olson, Superintendent

#whitnALLIN

RETIREES



from left to right

**Karen Effinger** “I have been at Whitnall for 24 school years. I have served as the Athletic Director’s Secretary, the high school bookkeeper, and a library aide. To all the wonderful people whom I have had the opportunity to work with over the past 24 years – Thank you! Coming here every day has always been interesting and I appreciated those who were kind and helpful. I am excited to start my new adventure and wish you all success in the future too!”

**Nancy Leon** “I started in 2000. I have worked in the elementary (5th grade Spanish), middle and high school. I helped Sara Brand with the AFS club for many years. I started the soles for souls collection in 2016.”

**Susan Rice** “For the past 20 years, I have worked as a K-5 special education teacher, in a cross-categorical capacity, at Hales Corners Elementary School. During my time in the Whitnall School District, I have participated in many aspects of the district’s activities, along with the PLEx initiative, the Verification Committee, and new teacher mentor affiliations. I will use my education and experience as a classroom teacher, school administrator, and special education teacher to work at UW-Milwaukee with aspiring teachers.”

**Margo Luecht** “I began my career at Whitnall in 1997 as a Kindergarten instructional aide. My next position was split between being a special ed aide and teaching instrumental music for 2 hours. The past 5 years, I have been the full time band/orchestra teacher for 4th and 5th graders at Edgerton and Hales Corners elementary schools and the Kindergarten general music teacher at Hales Corners. Music has always been my true passion. The students and colleagues I have met through the years have inspired me. I truly loved every minute of my time with them. I will look back over my past 22 years with many fond memories.”

PAY DAY

On June 11, we hosted a personal finance simulation for our 200 juniors at Whitnall High School. The event was called “Pay Day” and it allowed students to experience the reality of income versus expenses. The incomes were determined by the students’ career aspirations and the expenses were made up of many real life financial considerations such as student loans, housing, insurance, car payments, groceries, gasoline, etc. These expenses were altered depending on whether or not a student expected to be married, have children, or own a pet. Expect to have children? Add daycare. Want a pet? Add a veterinary bill.

In the simulation, students visited a series of booths that represented the various expenses and made decisions in order to make their paycheck for the month last. If students found themselves in financial trouble, they would visit the credit counseling area, where volunteers helped the students financially problem solve in order to complete the simulation.

Through Pay Day, students got some real experience in financial decisions, budgeting, and unexpected expenses (each student had to visit the “fate table” once during the simulation and pay for things such as car trouble, home repairs, etc.). We were so lucky to have local businesses participate, bringing their expertise and sense of community to the event. We also had many parents and staff help make the day a success.

You can visit our Facebook page or YouTube channel for a video of the event!



THE ALL IN DROP IN



AUGUST 28 • 6 PM • HALES CORNERS ELEMENTARY  
Join us for the reveal of our new learning spaces!

The community is invited to a ribbon cutting ceremony, where the Whitnall band will perform, Flash will make an appearance, and more! Following the ribbon cutting, drop in at each of our updated buildings--Hales Corners Elementary, Whitnall Middle School, and Whitnall High School. See you there!

BREAK A BRICK, TAKE A BRICK

On June 12, current HCE learners, former HCE learners, parents, staff, and community members braved the rain for our Break a Brick, Take a Brick event. Attendees got to take a swing at the portion of HCE that was later demolished and take a brick home as a keepsake. This was such a fun way to remember HCE’s past while celebrating its future. We were moved by the turnout, considering the downpour. It just goes to show how beloved Hales Corners Elementary is. We are so excited for the school’s well-deserved renovation.



Remember that you can visit the referendum page on our website for weekly updates, the construction schedule, and more!

## VALEDICTORIAN & SALUTATORIAN



The Class of 2019's Valedictorian was Josiah Misplon (left). Josiah plans to attend Carleton College in Minnesota. While at Whitnall High School, Josiah participated in history bowl, mock trial, forensics, and tennis. He was a part of National Honor Society, was named a National AP Scholar, was recognized as a National Merit Scholar, and--of course--finished high school at the very top of his class. Congratulations, Josiah! We are very proud.



Whitnall High School's 2019 Salutatorian was Abbey Kenaston (right). In the fall, Abbey will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison. While at Whitnall High School, Abbey participated in DECA and tennis. She was a member of National Honor Society and was awarded the Academic Excellence Scholarship. Congratulations, Abbey! We cannot wait to see what you do next!

## SENIOR ATHLETE AWARDS

**scholar athlete** Abbey Kenaston | Matthew Wroblewski • **coaches choice** Nicole Beckman | Charlie Riegg  
**outstanding athlete** Haley Wynn | David Haun • **howard knueppel award** Troy Schaefer • • • • •  
**iron falcon** David Haun | Bridget Finn | Matthew Wroblewski • • • • •

## GRAD WALK

In June, we held our annual Grad Walk! This year, we added the middle school to the trip down memory lane. Graduates returned to the halls of WMS and their respective elementary schools. They were greeted with cheers from future Whitnall grads and former teachers. The Grad Walk is always a special experience for our graduates and a great opportunity for our entire Whitnall community to come together.



## GRADUATION



congrats **grads**

## CLASS FACTS

The Class of 2019 was an exceptional graduating class, achieving more in terms of academics and honors than any class that came before them. The top fifteen students in the Class of 2019 would have been valedictorian or salutatorian at any other point in Whitnall High School's history. In other words, fifteen graduates in this one class achieved more academically than any graduate that came before them. The Class of 2019 had the largest National Honor Society chapter in the region and received more than four million, three hundred thousand dollars in scholarships (exceeding even last year's total by over one million dollars). We are immensely proud of this class and are wishing them all the best. We cannot wait to read the next chapter of their story.

For a video of the ceremony and a slideshow of more graduation photos, you can visit our YouTube channel!

## STUDENT RECOGNITION CEREMONY

At the end of the 2018-2019 school year, Whitnall High School held its first ever schoolwide Student Recognition Ceremony. The event celebrated freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Students were recognized for achievements in academics, athletics, and activities. The entire student body came together to celebrate one another (regardless of grade levels and varied interests). It was an incredible experience, and the high school plans to make it a yearly event.



## HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES & SPRING SPORTS

**softball** Regional Champions | Conference Champions | Haley Wynn: 1st Team All State, 1st Team All Southeast Region | Abby Cunningham: Honorable Mention All State, 1st Team All Southeast Region • **track and field** Hailey Doherty: School Record Holder in Pole Vault | Matt Fedewa: State Qualifier • **boys tennis** Joe Remschak & Jack Stemper: State Qualifiers • **band** Kayla Okus: 1 at State | Samantha Hinckle: 1 at State | Heejeong Lee: 1 at State (x2) • • • • • **orchestra** Kathryn Rausch: 1 at State • **DECA** Gold Certification | State Diamond Award | Catherine McCarthy: State Medalist | Katie Frank: State Medalist | Chad Milan: State Medalist | Manas Arora: State Medalist | Sydney Reinhard: State Medalist | Charlie Riegg: State Medalist • **forensics** Emma Baumgardt: State Qualifier | Kennidi Kreiser: State Qualifier | Mary Kostopoulos: State Qualifier | Josiah Misplon: State Qualifier | Antoneo Munoz: State Qualifier | Elliot McDonald: State Qualifier | Ashley Ascencio: State Qualifier | Lily Dockerty: State Qualifier | Colin Poulakos: State Qualifier | Sophia Abad: State Qualifier | Shania Johnson: State Qualifier | Tatiannah Wiles: State Qualifier | Katrina Lohr: State Qualifier • • • • •



advancement      belonging      courage



**PROUD  
HISTORY  
BRIGHT  
FUTURE**

# THE WHITNALL WINDOW

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Whitnall School District  
5000 S. 116th Street  
Greenfield, WI 53228  
414.525.8400  
www.whitnall.com

## WSD Board of Education

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Jon Jones | Member | Franklin | Since 2014  
Karen Mikolainis | Member | Hales Corners | Since 2019

WE HOPE  
EVERYONE IS  
HAVING A SAFE  
AND HAPPY  
SUMMER

OUR ANNUAL MEETING IS BEING HELD ON  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 AT 6:30 PM** IN THE  
DISTRICT'S **COMMUNITY BOARD ROOM.**



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lvasquez@whitnall.com

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