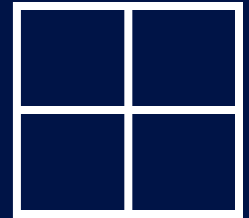


# THE WHITNALL WINDOW

FALL 2019



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## THE SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

And just like that, another school year is underway! We kicked off the school year with new learning spaces. Our renovations were made possible by the community support for our referendum. Thank you for your important role in providing our students with safe and inviting learning environments. For more on this, visit page 2!

At the budget hearing and annual meeting in September, we shared positive financial news. The district did not need to short term borrow for the first time since 2010-11, State Aid increased significantly for the third straight year (23rd highest increase out of 422 districts), and the tax levy will remain flat while the mill rate decreased for the second year in a row. In October, the board approved the budget and certified the mill rate at a rate of \$9.12 for 2019-20; the mill rate for 2018-19 was \$9.86.

Positive financial news hasn't distracted us from our continuous improvement work. Since April of 2019, the district has been working with a consultant to develop a strategic plan, something the district has been operating without for the past several years. A strategic plan aligns resources with priorities and is critical to a district's success. At the end of October, the board approved a framework for the strategic plan and finalized Whitnall's prospectus. These can be found on pages 4 and 5. Next, we will expand on the strategic plan by creating, implementing, and monitoring action plans. We will then create a "district dashboard" so the community can follow our progress. Please continue to visit our website (District > About > Continuous Improvement) for updates!



*Lisa L. Olson*

Dr. Lisa L. Olson, Superintendent

#whitnALLIN

## THE FINISHED SPACES

At the end of August, construction came to an end and we unveiled the new learning spaces at our community event, the "All In Drop In." The event featured an official ribbon cutting, tours, and a whole lot of Whitnall spirit. If you weren't able to attend the All In Drop In, photos of the finished spaces are below. And you can head to our Facebook page or our YouTube channel for a video that documents the construction process and showcases the new learning spaces. Thank you to the Whitnall community for supporting our referendum.

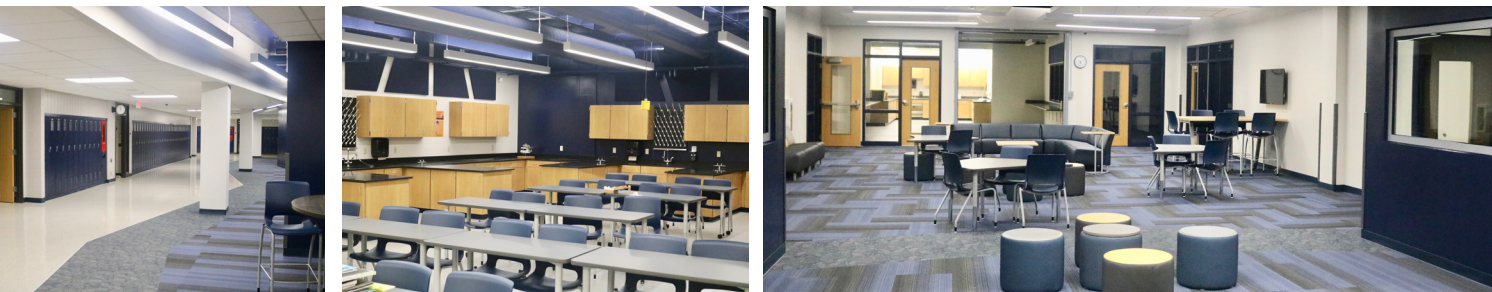
### the all in drop in



### whitnall high school



### whitnall middle school



### hales corners elementary



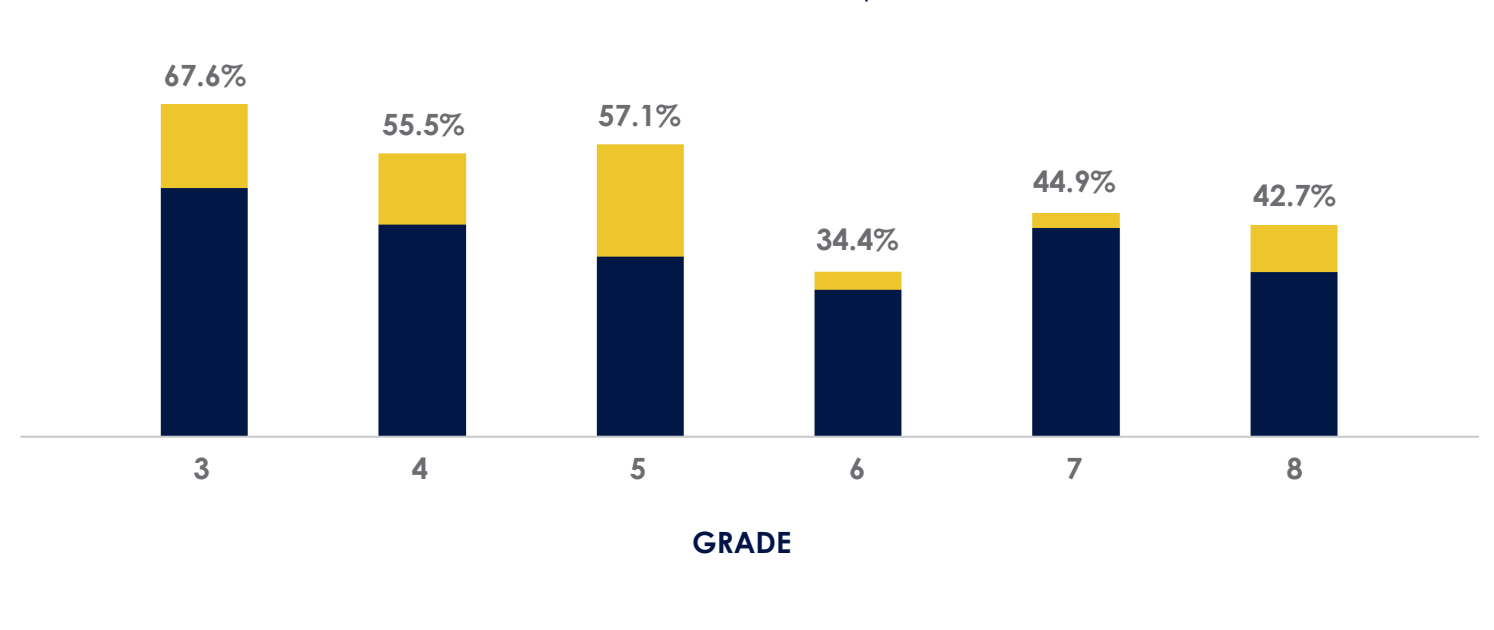
## FOCUS ON MATHEMATICS

As WSD continues to study our student achievement data and develop appropriate responses, math programming has become an area of focus. Since 2010, state testing measures reveal a pattern of falling or flat scores in the area of mathematics. There are subtle increases in some grade levels each year, but not enough to indicate a steady increase in student math performance. While it is difficult to compare state tests from year to year due to ever-changing formulas to determine the overall results, Wisconsin's state tests (the ACT and Forward exams) have been consistent enough since the 2015-16 school year to track patterns with some reliability. Areas of particular concern include a drop in math proficiency between grades 5 and 6 and decreasing scores at the high school level.

In response, WSD has been making adjustments to math programming in grades 6-12. New curriculum which is closely aligned with the Kindergarten through 5th grade curriculum has been in the implementation stages at Whitnall Middle School since 2017. A similar alignment of curriculum is in its first phase of implementation at Whitnall High School this school year. There have also been changes to the high school's course sequence; these changes ensure that all students master the skills and concepts necessary for success on the ACT before they take the test in their junior year. The district has also added math extension courses at both the middle and high school level for students in need of personalized support. These adjustments will be closely monitored throughout the year and modified or supplemented as evidence of progress is collected.

Below is a chart that shows Forward exam data from the 2018-19 school year. The percentages represent how many students received a score of "Proficient" (blue) or "Advanced" (gold) at that grade level. You can see the aforementioned drop between grades 5 and 6. While there is some recovery in grade 7, we are working to eliminate the drop, thus eliminating any need for recovery.

2018-19 FORWARD EXAM DATA | MATHEMATICS



## YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP

Youth Apprenticeship (YA) is a workplace opportunity for high school juniors or seniors. YA students complete 450 hours of paid work while taking courses related to the profession. Each YA student is given a workplace mentor who helps them become proficient on a checklist of skills. The most popular areas in YA are: Health Science, STEM, Construction, IT, Marketing, and Manufacturing. The YA program at WHS is coordinated by Mr. Tom Hermann. According to Tom, "The program offers invaluable experiential learning. The students benefit from career and self discovery." WHS Senior Hannah works for Innovative Pain Care through the YA program and remarked, "It's a great opportunity to work in a professional setting." Employers report that the students bring energy and eagerness to the workplace. WHS is just one high school in the Southwest Milwaukee Consortium, which also includes Franklin, Greendale, Greenfield, and St. Francis high schools (Twitter: @SWMKE1). Want more information about YA or have an opening at work that a YA student can fill? Please contact Tom Hermann at [thermann@whitnall.com](mailto:thermann@whitnall.com).


# WHITNALL SCHOOL DISTRICT PROSPECTUS

[who we are]

**PURPOSE !**

The Whitnall School District engages learners in safe, academically challenging, and supportive experiences so that all students can reach their personal learning goals.

[what we do]

**PASSION** 

The Whitnall School District embraces the unique story of every child.

[how we do it]

**VALUES** 

Advancement | Belonging | Courage

[where we focus]

**VISION** 

Every Whitnall graduate is prepared to realize their full potential and to positively impact local and global communities.

[why we do it]

WE'RE  
**WHITNALL**  
IN!

# WHITNALL SCHOOL DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

GOAL	OBJECTIVES
Develop an effective, systematic model for delivering high quality learning experiences	Demonstrate rigor of curriculum
	Demonstrate effectiveness of the WSD Roadmap on student preparation

**UNIFIED CULTURE**

GOAL	OBJECTIVES
Foster a culture of advancement, belonging, and courage	Engage in equitable organizational practices in order to foster belonging and courage
	Utilize a talent management system to foster a culture of advancement

**ENGAGEMENT**

GOAL	OBJECTIVE
Initiate, develop, and sustain engagement with external stakeholders	Demonstrate responsiveness in processes and actions that foster and support external stakeholder engagement

**FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

GOAL	OBJECTIVES
Maintain fiscal responsibility while ensuring adequate resource allocation in support of instruction and infrastructure	Demonstrate the effective use of criteria for allocating financial resources
	Demonstrate an understanding of the budget process among all those with budget authority
	Demonstrate the effective use of a 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
	Demonstrate fiscal responsibility
	Demonstrate operational efficiency

To view the full strategic plan, which includes initiatives for each objective, please visit our website.

ALUMNI



The Whitnall School District extends its heartfelt congratulations to alumnus Tyler Herro, who has been drafted to the Miami Heat. We are proud to see that the dedication Tyler exhibited here at Whitnall has stayed with him and has led him to this thrilling moment. We are excited to watch Tyler's sportsmanship and talent be displayed on a national level.

With only a year since Tyler's graduation from Whitnall, it is not difficult to recall his accomplishments or to see his impact. Tyler was a three-time all state player, a four-time conference player of the year, and he remains Whitnall's all-time leading scorer with 2,036 points. He accomplished all of this through hard work and persistence, making him an excellent role model for current and future Whitnall athletes.

His former coach, Travis Riesop, had this to say about Tyler: "I have never seen someone with so much passion for the game. I saw his early morning workouts, his hours after practice, and his drive to exceed all expectations. I know that, even though he will be playing basketball at the highest level, Tyler will never forget where he came from and will always represent the Whitnall community. We could not be more proud. And this is just the beginning."

Superintendent Dr. Lisa Olson sees Tyler Herro as an example of what we want in a Whitnall graduate. "To take what you do well here at Whitnall, to expand on it, to then do it well out in the world--that is what we love to see from our learners when they leave Whitnall."

STAFF



Kati Seiter, one of our instrumental music educators, is distinguishing herself at Whitnall, throughout Wisconsin, and on a national level. At Whitnall, Kati teaches concert and jazz band to students in grades 6-8. She also does small group instruction. In her teaching, Kati implements the Comprehensive Musicianship through Performance Model, on which she is well trained. Beyond Whitnall, Kati teaches for UW-Whitewater's Band Camp, has presented numerous sessions at the Wisconsin State Music Conference, and serves as the President of the Wisconsin Music Educators Association. Beyond Wisconsin, Kati was recently selected as a quarterfinalist for the Grammys' 2020 Music Educator Award! We are very lucky to have someone who is receiving recognition at both the state and national level teaching right here at Whitnall.

STUDENTS



October was Anti-Bullying Month at Whitnall Middle School. Student Council, Student Advisory, and the Student Anti-Bullying Panel worked together to disseminate information and put on events related to bullying prevention. There were student meetings, there was a parent forum, and there was a t-shirt design contest. Middle school students were asked to submit designs for an anti-bullying t-shirt. From over 75 entries, a design was chosen. To the left, you can see the student who won the contest wearing her winning design. Congratulations, Tessali! The shirt says "KINDNESS IS MY SUPERPOWER." On the last day of October, WMS students wore their anti-bullying t-shirts to culminate their month of promoting acceptance, inclusivity, and kindness. Anti-bullying month may be over, but the Student Anti-Bullying Panel is continuing their work on bullying prevention, hoping to demonstrate to all WMS students that kindness is a superpower.



advancement belonging courage



PROUD HISTORY BRIGHT FUTURE

# THE WHITNALL WINDOW

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## WSD Board of Education

Jonathan Cagle | President | Hales Corners | Since 2014  
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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  
AUTUMN

WHITNALL THEATRE PRESENTS  
**100 YEARS OF BROADWAY**  
JANUARY 16, 17, 18 AT 7 PM | JANUARY 19 AT 2 PM  
FOR MORE INFO AND TICKETS, VISIT THE HIGH SCHOOL'S WEBSITE!



Newsletter feedback?  
Send to  
lvasquez@whitnall.com

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@whitnallschools for all three!