

## WHITESIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT #115

618-239-0000

### Smoke Signals - January 2021

Mr. Mark Heuring, Superintendent

Whiteside Elementary School  
Mr. Nathan Rakers, Principal  
Mr. Kevin Johnson, Assistant Principal

Whiteside Middle School  
Mrs. Monica Laurent, Principal  
Mr. Jaime Cotto, Assistant Principal

**\*\*Whiteside School District is conducting in-person classes at this time.**

We encourage all families to be prepared for an additional adaptive pause due to future COVID concerns. Whiteside School District may change to remote learning in the event of additional COVID cases, transmission evidence, and/or the availability of staff. **\*\***



**REMINDER: We have an adaptive pause January 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>; ALL student will be virtual. In-person students can return on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**Important Note:** If you are not receiving phone calls and/or emails, log into your Skyward account and update your contact information.

### Calendar of Events - JANUARY

- 4 Class Resumes; ALL students virtual
- 4-8 Adaptive Pause; All students virtual
- 11 In-Person Students Return to School
- 18 **NO SCHOOL** - Dr. MLK Day
- 27 Middle School Picture Retake Day

### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES UPDATE:



Whiteside Middle School will continue to wait for official guidance from the IDPH, IHSA, SIJHSAA, and partnering Belle-Fair Conference schools regarding a final decision whether volleyball,

basketball, and cheer will take place this season. Belle-Fair conference has made the decision to **delay the start of basketball season. There is a tentative start date of March 1st for all basketball and cheer related activities;** however, this is tentative and based on the IDPH's final decision.



**Volleyball will aim for a tentative start date of January 11th.**

IF volleyball activities are allowed to take place, we will hold tryouts for our boys' and girls' volleyball teams on January 11th and 12<sup>th</sup> (tentative); games are set to begin on January 21st.

IF basketball and cheer activities are allowed to take place, we will hold tryouts for our 7th and 8th-grade boys' and girls' basketball teams and cheer teams on March 1st and 2nd; games are set to begin on March 11th.



**Student-athletes must have a current physical on file with their school;** without a current physical, your student will not be permitted to take part in the tryout

process. **Students can pick up a sports packet in the school office. Students also need to be in good academic standing for the tryout process.** It is very important that your student stays on top of their school work.

If you have any questions at all, please email our middle school Athletic Director, Shea Lodes at [shea.lodes@wssd115.org](mailto:shea.lodes@wssd115.org).

### WELCOME BACK WHITESIDE WARRIORS!

# 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR

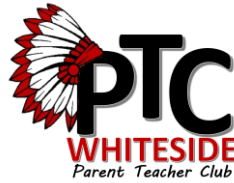


**If school is cancelled due to inclement weather,** the closing will be announced on TV

channels 2, 3, 5 and 11. You will also receive a call via Skyward. Whiteside will NEVER dismiss early, but you may pick up your child at your discretion.

## Extended School Program "ESP"

Our after school ESP program is currently at capacity. We are not accepting any additional students at this time. If you would like to be put on a waiting list for participation in after school ESP, please contact the elementary school office at 618-239-0000 or email Kristy Frazer, [kristy.frazer@wssd115.org](mailto:kristy.frazer@wssd115.org)



## **Upcoming Events:**

**Tuesday, January 5th** - PTC meeting at 7pm via Zoom  
**Tuesday, January 19th** - Dine to Donate at Silver Creek Saloon

## **COMING SOON:**

Whiteside Spirit Wear e-store the week of January 25th.

We are looking for a co-chair for Family Reading Night, please email [WhitesidePTC@wssd115.org](mailto:WhitesidePTC@wssd115.org) if you are interested.

**For more information email [WhitesidePTC@wssd115.org](mailto:WhitesidePTC@wssd115.org) or follow us on Facebook at Whiteside School PTC.**

## **STUDENTS OF THE MONTH:**

### MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Kenny McCline  
Kenyon Logan  
Kayden Criss  
Kaleb Walker  
Austin Dunn



### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Aliyah Hunt  
Jermia Taylor  
Julian Prater  
Savannah Dycus  
Camden McErlain  
Anna Byrne  
Jacob Ballard  
Haleigh Amos  
Kyleigh Artimisi  
Cody Wiley



## **Whiteside Cares and Shares**

We are appreciative and proud to share that, during the course of this holiday season, our school community was able to collect over 2,000 food items for over 60 holiday food baskets and provide gifts for over 50 students in need. We want to express our sincere gratitude to the people and organizations who helped to make this possible by providing gifts, turkeys, coats, gift cards, and contributing to the food drives in both buildings: Towerview Baptist Church, Shiloh Police Department, Cornerstone Church, Belleville, First Church of the Nazarene, First Christ Church in Fairview Heights, and Whiteside staff (current and retired), students and families. We are grateful to be a part of such a caring community.



**Registration dates for all incoming KINDERGARTNERS for the 2021-2022 school year will be announced soon!**



**Picture Re-Take Day  
MS - January 27<sup>th</sup>**



### **NO TIME FOR BREAKFAST?**

Breakfast is served at both schools from 8-8:30 a.m. Fuel up to start the day! *This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

### **MEAL PACKS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL DAILY FROM 10:30-12:30**

Please remember to complete the online form that is emailed out every day to reserve your meal packs (especially on virtual days)! We want to make sure we always have enough for everyone.

**Thank you!**

### **A NOTE FROM OUR NURSES:**



**Welcome back!** We are so excited for what the new year holds. As we continue to wait for the COVID-19 vaccination, the Whiteside nursing team would like to remind our students and families that we must

remain diligent with our COVID precautions. Upon return to in-person learning following winter break, we need to remember the basic rules for safety.

Please review the following guidelines with your student(s).

- 1. Wear your mask!** Each school has a limited supply of disposable masks in case students need a clean one in the middle of the day due to a spill or mess. However, the expectation is that all students arrive to school with a mask. Children riding the school bus must wear their mask while on the bus.
- 2. Keep practicing social distancing.** Remember to remain 6 feet apart when possible and give our friends and teachers space.
- 3. Wash hands!** Scrub hands for at least 20 seconds. Wash often. When soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.
- 4. Stay home when sick.** COVID-19 has many symptoms. If you are unsure whether or not to send your student to school, call the nurse at your child's building. They will walk you through the process.

**We hope you enjoyed your time off. Thank you for all you do to support Whiteside students!**

**-Nurse Heather and Nurse Kayce**

## **COVID-19 Dashboard**

**Our COVID-19 Dashboard will be emailed to all parents on Fridays through our Skyward student management system.** The COVID-19 information will provide parents the current, as well as a historical perspective, into the District's COVID-19 cases.

Many parents have been in contact with the school's nurses due to many COVID-19 situations. We want to thank and continue to encourage all parents to make these contacts and share COVID-19 information with the district.

Your willingness to share this information helps provide a safe environment for students and allows the district to continue to provide in-person learning.

**Wishing  
you PEACE  
LOVE and  
LAUGHTER  
in the NEW YEAR**

JUNE LETTERS STUDIO