



WELCOME TO WHATCOM MIDDLE SCHOOL

We hope this year will be both beneficial and enjoyable. You will find that we are dedicated to helping achieve and experience success at Whatcom. We believe that it is the responsibility of staff, parents, as well as students, to establish a positive academic and social school climate. In promoting constructive citizenship and mutual respect, and in exercising self-discipline, we believe each member of Whatcom Middle School will be able to work to his/her potential.

This "Student Planner" is designed to provide information and advice for students new to the school but it also reminds returning students of the citizenship expectations. Some may feel that they know what it says, but it is worth reading. It is our hope that students will read the handbook to be aware of what is expected of them so they have a better opportunity to enjoy school. Through this handbook we wish to foster a high degree of understanding between students and staff. Therefore, this handbook is dedicated to good citizenship and organizational skills.

Students, be aware of what is available to you. Support your school and take advantage of what it offers. Develop relationships with teachers and classmates. Above all make the most of these 3 years as you form many wonderful memories.

We hope that today may be the beginning of many tomorrows filled with laughter and learning, with work and recreation, and most importantly, with dedication and resolve that all who enter our doors may leave having achieved the best of which they are capable. To be successful - remember:

- I like myself
- I can think for myself
- I can take responsibility for my actions
- There is no problem so great that it cannot be solved!

BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

The mission of the Bellingham School District, in partnership with the community, is to provide students with the knowledge, skills and qualities required to be successful in a changing, diverse world.

Education in Bellingham is a shared, life-long experience in which the diverse needs of all individuals are met. This experience, provided in a safe, supportive environment, will ensure success in a changing world.

OUR BELIEFS...

The values that serve as the foundation of the BSD strategic plan are:

- ❖ All students are worthy of a quality education
- ❖ Learning is essential for success in today's world
- ❖ All adults in our District are learners
- ❖ All students can succeed as learners
- ❖ The District is continuously improving as a system
- ❖ Relationships are based on respect for self and for one another
- ❖ Partnerships among the District, families of students and the community members of Bellingham are essential
- ❖ Diversity is celebrated and supported

To view the strategic plan, visit
<http://www.bham.wednet.edu/district/strategic.htm>



BSD STRATEGIC PLAN

Expected Outcome:

This plan will result in high levels of student achievement with all students prepared for college, careers and citizenship.

Goal 1: Focus on powerful teaching and learning strategies in all classrooms.

Proof of Success: The Bellingham School District actively engages adults and students in the use of the Essential Strategies for Powerful Teaching and Learning to support lifelong learning and the highest possible achievement for every student. All learning environments include Creativity, risk-taking, acceptance, collaboration and feedback, while focusing on continuous growth of students and adults.

Goal 2: Personalize learning in the school setting.

Proof of Success: Small learning environments result in meaningful, caring relationships between students and staff members at all instructional levels. Staff members have high expectations for each student and they help that student meet those expectations by guiding the student along a personalized, continuous learning path, providing interventions as needed.

Goal 3: Engage families and community in student learning.

Proof of Success: The Bellingham School District collaborates with community members and all families to build mutually supportive home and school cultures that enhance each student's achievement.

BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT MIDDLE SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

We believe that middle level students will learn if the unique nature of adolescence is addressed; if the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual needs are met; if individual learning styles and abilities are recognized; and if the environment is fair, safe and supportive.

MISSION STATEMENT FOR WHATCOM MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Whatcom Middle School community is committed to providing our students educational experiences that promote life-long learning. We are dedicated to helping students develop skills needed to reason, communicate, collaborate and make healthy choices in a safe and respectful environment.

In order to ensure a safe environment for students and staff we respectfully require that when you enter the building all visitors, parents, non WMS students, go to the main office to sign in.

THE SCHOOL DAY/YEAR

Students at Whatcom Middle School may attend up to six classes during the day. Students may arrive after 8:00 a.m. to get breakfast in the Cafeteria.

Students should not arrive on campus prior to 8:00 a.m. (unless arriving by school bus), as there is no supervision. Doors open at 8:00. The first bell rings at 8:25 and students are expected to be in their classes and ready to begin at 8:30. During first period, students hear the daily announcements and pledge allegiance to the flag.

Regular Day Schedule

6TH GRADE

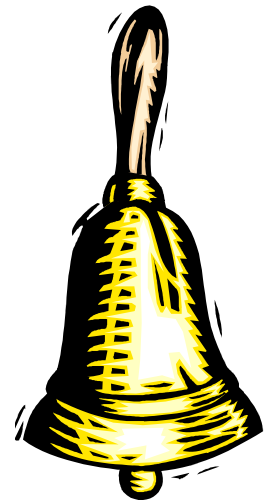
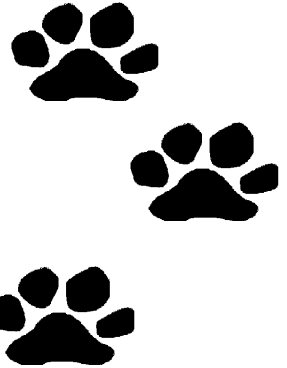
Opening Bell	8:25
Period 1	8:30 – 9:26
Period 2	9:30 – 10:26
Period 3	10:30 – 11:26
Period 4	11:30 – 11:56
LUNCH	12:00 – 12:30
Period 4	12:34 – 1:00
Period 5	1:04 – 2:00
Period 6	2:04 – 3:00

7TH GRADE

Opening Bell	8:25
Period 1	8:30 – 9:26
Period 2	9:30 – 10:26
Period 3	10:30 – 11:26
Period 4	11:30 – 12:26
LUNCH	12:30 – 1:00
Period 5	1:04 – 2:00
Period 6	2:04 – 3:00

8TH GRADE

Opening Bell	8:25
Period 1	8:30 – 9:26
Period 2	9:30 – 10:26
Period 3	10:30 – 11:26
LUNCH	11:30 – 12:00
Period 4	12:04 – 1:00
Period 5	1:04 – 2:00
Period 6	2:04 – 3:00



Days alternate between "A" day and "B" day as some classes are scheduled on alternating days. For example: PE on "A" days and Band on "B" days. We start the year with an "A" day and continue alternating days.

Early release days are listed on the school calendar.

Students are dismissed at 11:30 a.m. on Early Release Day

Whatcom Middle School operates on a semester system. The following are time lines:

First Semester: Sept 2 - Jan 23

Second Semester: Jan 27 - June 12

STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Grading - Teachers explain their grading systems during the first week of school. Most classes at Whatcom are graded on an A, B, C, D, or F basis:

A=superior **B**=above average **C**=average
D=below average **F**=failing

Students receive a report card each semester. The first report card is received after conferences in November. June report cards will be mailed home.



Homework - is expected. The amount will vary from class to class, but an average of 45 minutes, four nights per week is reasonable.

Instructional Style Requests - In order to provide the best possible learning opportunities for each and every student at Whatcom Middle School, we work to create classes that are balanced in such areas as abilities, gender, class size, special needs placement and elective choices. Parent input regarding your child's learning style and his/her strengths and needs is appreciated. We make every effort to match learning and teaching styles; however, we cannot honor requests for particular teachers.

Progress Reports - are issued at mid-term each semester. The progress report is intended to be a "check-point" indicating a student's status and grade standing mid-way through a term. Students and parents are encouraged to contact teachers for more information.

Assessments - Each year students are required to take several state and district/school level assessments. These assessments include:

- Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) - grades 6, 7, 8, Spring
- Degrees of Reading Power (DRP) - grades 6-7-8 - fall and spring.
- Writing Assessment - 8th grade -fall - NYAS - spring
- Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) - 8th Grade - fall - NYAS - spring. (07/08)
- Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) -All grades -NYAS - spring.

Transfer Requests - Please be aware of the following procedures to be followed for requests for student class transfers after the start of the school year.

- No transfers will be authorized within the first 10 teaching days.
- To request a transfer, the parent/guardian must address a letter to the school counselor. The reasons for the requested transfer must relate to the positive educational interests of your student.
- Upon receipt of a transfer request, a meeting with you, your student's current teacher(s), and administrators and/or counselor occurs during which transfer rationale and options will be explored.
- If the transfer is authorized, your student will meet with his/her new teacher for orientation purposes.

We hope that by following these procedures we will provide a stable educational situation for all of our students.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Attendance Office direct line 676-6460 x7

AT WMS we believe there is a direct correlation between attendance and performance. Therefore, each student is urged to attend school on a regular basis. Participation and performance are integral parts of a student's grade.

Absences - When a student is absent from school, parents need to call the school office on or before the morning of the absence. Most mornings you will get a recorded message (as the attendance secretary is helping students who had previous absences or tardies). Please leave your student's name; give permission to excuse your student for their absence and request homework. (Homework is available for pick up after 3:15 pm). Upon returning to school students must check in at the attendance office before school starts *with a parent signed note* explaining the absence. For pre-arranged long-term absences, students should notify the school well in advance. Students need to get a work contract from the attendance secretary; this is then taken to their teachers to receive assignments they will miss when they are gone. Teachers will explain the time allowed for make up work due to absences.

Homework Requests - When a student is absent, parents may request homework assignments by calling the attendance office at 676-6460 x7. Assignments will be on the counter in main office ready for pick up after 3:15 pm. You can also email teachers with your request. (Homework takes time for teachers to prepare. If you call for homework the expectation is that it will be picked up.)

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Tardiness – Students who arrive late to school need to report to the attendance office with a signed parent note excusing them.

Students are tardy to class if they are not at school and ready to work in their first period class or at the beginning of every class period. Students will be expected to make up missed time. If unexcused tardiness continues, sanctions will increase up to and including after school detention and Saturday school.

Truancy – Students are truant if they are absent from class or school without proper permission, or given a pass to a certain place and do not report in a timely fashion.

Release During the Day - If students need to leave school during the day they need to bring a parent/guardian signed note to the attendance office in the *morning*. The note needs to include what time they are to leave school. Students will be issued a permit slip that allows them to leave school grounds at your designated time. You may meet your student at a pre-arranged location. Parents do not need to find parking and come inside.

If you need to remove your child from school and no note was sent, you will need to come to the attendance office. Please allow yourself plenty of time. We will page your student when possible. Please keep in mind that from time to time classes are working in other areas of the building and we will need to physically go there and get them. Students may not leave school during the day without a permit slip from the attendance office.

Withdrawing - Should it be necessary to withdraw your student from Whatcom Middle School, notifying the school counseling office and the student's teachers prior to the last day allows time to complete your child's records. Immunization records, which will be required before entering a new school, will also be provided. School records will be transferred to other schools within the Bellingham School District. Schools outside the Bellingham School District must request student records in writing.

ENRICHMENT

Clubs (throughout the year) – Whatcom offers after school clubs for students. Clubs are usually run by a staff member or parent. Students who sign up must have prior parent approval. Clubs may include: math, drama, art, chess, future cities etc.



National Geography Bee (winter) - A nationwide contest for students in grades 4 through 8 which includes school, state, and national levels. The winning student in each school must

take a written multiple-choice qualifying test for the state level.

California Science Trip - (spring) this field trip provides selected 8th grade students with a close-up look at technology associated with all phases of science. The selected students will join with others from middle schools in the district to travel to San Francisco, California, to visit Stanford University, the Tech Museum, the Exploratorium, as well as other science-related landmarks. (07/08)

Reflections - A National PTSA arts program. Students may enter projects on a pre-determined theme in a number of areas including painting and visual arts, photography, music, and writing for judging in a local competition. Winners can proceed to state and national competitions.



ATHLETICS

Sports are organized on an intramural and inter-school basis. Intramural play is when students from Whatcom compete amongst themselves. Interschool play is when students compete amongst other middle schools.

Fall: Interschool Soccer (6,7,8),
Interschool Football (7,8),
Interschool Gymnastics/Dance (6,7,8)

Fall/Winter: Intramural Basketball (6,7,8)
Interschool Basketball (7,8)

Winter: Interschool Wrestling (6,7,8),
Interschool Volleyball (girls - 7,8)
Intramural Volleyball (6)

Spring: Interschool Track (6,7,8)



A Physical Examination - is required before participating in interschool middle school athletics. The physical exam needs to be done by a medical authority licensed to perform a physical exam. This physical is valid for a 13-month period. A physical exam update will be required prior to each subsequent year of participation in sports. Physical exams are not needed for participation in intramural athletics.

Students participating in the athletic program must be covered by school insurance or parents must supply a signed waiver indicating that they have an insurance plan equal to the school insurance program.



**** Please check carefully as all medical plans do not cover athletic participation****

Students will be permitted to participate when all three of the following are on file at school:

- 1) Parent signed and completed medical release form
- 2) Parent signed and completed permission to participate form
- 3) Physician completed physical exam form

Forms can be turned in to the main office at anytime during the year – preferably well before the start of the sport season.

The sports seasons generally last 8 weeks and require after school turnout from 3:15 to 4:45. Activity buses will transport students to and from their games only. Parents need to pick students up at WMS for transportation home.

STUDENT BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Behaviors that lead to a productive, co-operative working and learning environment are promoted at Whatcom. Behaviors that distract from learning will necessitate consequences designed to discourage such behaviors. It is critical that students, parents and teachers work together to promote a positive school environment.

The WMS rules are:

Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful.

As a student at WMS you have the right to:

- A quality education.
- A safe school environment that respects your dignity and self-worth.
- Participate in co-curricular activities.
- Be informed of your progress in school.

WMS students are expected to:

- Attend all classes every day on time, ready to work, with learning materials, books, pencils, etc.

- Respect the rights of others and the school district, exercise self-discipline, and obey school rules.
- Use appropriate language free of profanity and harassing statements.
- Keep hats, coats and bags in locker.
- Move through halls appropriately.
- Consume food and drink in cafeteria only.
- Avoid public display of affection.
- Dress appropriately.
- Wait for teacher dismissal.
- Use e-mail appropriately.
- Follow individual classroom rules.
- Not use /possess tobacco, alcohol, drugs or drug paraphernalia while on or around school property.
- Keep weapons and imitations of them away from school.
- Remain on campus from the time of arrival at school until the conclusion of the last activity, unless parents have requested permission through the attendance office to leave campus.

Students who experience difficulty in following school expectations receive progressive consequences based upon the number and severity of their infractions.

Discipline includes detention, removal from class, school service, and Saturday school. For exceptional or continual misconduct, disciplinary action includes short-term suspension, long-term suspension, and expulsion.

Major Offenses - Unfortunately it is imperative to include major offenses, which are more severe in nature. These offenses are of such a nature that they warrant an immediate referral to the principal or assistant principal. The following list of major offenses is not all-inclusive: (criminal acts may require police action)

- Extreme disrespect to staff persons.
- Illegal substances. (use or possession)
- Weapons/explosives. (use or possession)
- Repeated classroom and/or behavior plan offenses.
- Use of tobacco.
- Fighting.
- Truancy.
- Theft.
- Vandalism.
- Arson.
- Assault.
- Inappropriate use of email.



The consequences for major infractions are severe and progressive. Students face:

- Saturday School.
- Short term suspension. (up to 10 school days)
- Long term suspension. (11 days or to the end of trimester)
- Emergency expulsion. (indefinite period)

The rules as reviewed will apply to students on school property during or immediately before or after school hours, while attending a school activity, or event off the school grounds, while riding a school bus to or from school, or at any school sanctioned activity or event.

Bus discipline – School bus transportation to and from school is part of our school. Basic Whatcom rules – *Be safe, Be responsible, Be respectful* – apply. The bus driver is to receive the same consideration and respect as any other staff at WMS. When bus rules are not adhered to, drivers will complete a form that is sent to the school for disciplinary action.

STUDENT DRESS CODE



Student dress and grooming can affect the general learning environment and student attitude in the classroom. Student appearance should be consistent with the following restrictions:

Dress and/or appearance which constitutes a clear and present danger to health and/or safety or which causes interference with work or creates a classroom or school disruption will not be permitted.

COVER UP - Bare midriffs, cleavage, spaghetti straps, tube tops are not permitted.

WEAR PROPER FITTING CLOTHES – No undergarments showing! No short shorts or really short skirts. (should be no shorter than finger tips when arms are at your side)

SEND THE RIGHT MESSAGE - Clothing that displays drugs, alcohol, obscenities, gang insignias or sexual innuendoes are prohibited.

NO HEADGEAR - Hats, visors, scarves, and bandanas are not to be worn in school buildings.

COATS/JACKETS/LARGE BULKY VESTS will not be worn in class.

SHOES MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES.

Belongings of all kinds should be marked with student's name.

STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY

Immunization – Updated immunizations are required of all 6th graders prior to enrollment. Any student without the proper immunization(s) (or signed personal exemption) will **NOT** be allowed to attend school - *by state law*. Students without proper records will be sent home from school.

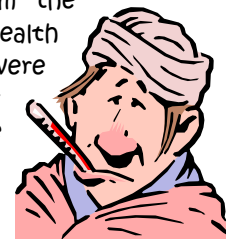
HIV/Aids - In response to the health threat of HIV to our population, the 1988 Washington State Legislature mandated that a program of prevention education be presented to students yearly, beginning with fifth grade. (AIDS Omnibus Act, RCW 28A.230.070) The Bellingham School District has adopted an appropriate program for HIV prevention education to meet the intent of this law.

State law provides that a parent or guardian must preview the curriculum materials before they can have their child excused from participation in the HIV prevention program. Opportunity to preview the curriculum materials is provided each year at a parent information night. The HIV prevention program is usually taught during the spring. Information letters reminding parents are sent out prior to the presentation of the curriculum.

Vision, Hearing, & Scoliosis Screening - All students in grade 7 will receive vision, hearing and a scoliosis screening test some time in the winter. If there are any problems, you will be contacted by the school nurse.

Injury - Students injured or ill at school will receive first aid (when necessary by the school nurse), office personnel or the principal. Parents will be contacted if the injury or illness warrants it. Please be sure your phone numbers are current along with your listed emergency contacts and your physician information. These contacts are the *only* people we are able to call.

Health Problems - Please inform the office if your child has any special health conditions (e.g. diabetes, severe allergies, asthma, seizures etc.) This information also needs to be included on the health section of your student's registration form. The school nurse will address serious health concerns.



Medication at School - This refers to prescribed and "over the counter" medications. If a student must take medication during the school day, school personnel are required to observe the following rules:



- All medications that are administered by staff are kept in a locked cabinet at school.
- An authorization form, signed by the physician and guardian, with written directions filled out by the physician must be on file. This applies to ANY medication taken at school – including cough drops!
- A new medication form is required for any changes (e.g. time, dosage, or medicine).
- All medications must be in the original container and not require any preparation to administer.
- A guardian must bring medication to school. (Not the student)
- Medication will not be given on field trips unless prior arrangements have been made.
- Authorization forms must be reissued each September for ongoing medications.



Self-medication forms are also available. This is for the student that can reliably bring their (1) day's dosage to school. Please use and carefully read the "green" medication form if you choose this option. All forms can be picked up from the attendance office.

Weather Emergencies – Occasionally severe weather makes it necessary to cancel school for a day, begin school later, change to snow routes only, or close school earlier than the regular schedule. When this happens, announcements are made on local radio stations beginning about 6 a.m. and continuing through the morning hours. Emergency school changes are recorded on the main number, 676-6400.

When bad weather hits, tune into one of the local radio or TV stations or call 676-6400 to find out if schools are operating. (KBFW 930 AM, KGMI 790 AM, KPUG 1170 AM, KZAZ 91.7 FM, KISM 92.9 FM, KAFE 104.3 FM, KVO5-TV Channel 12).

Students should review an emergency plan with parents so they know what to do in the event school is cancelled or delayed.



Earthquake, Fire Drills, Lockdowns – Earthquake, fire and lockdown drills will occur at specific times throughout the school year. Students will learn how to leave the building in a quick and orderly fashion in case of an emergency alarm and will follow all safety procedures.

In the event of an evacuation of the building, please do not pick up your child or any student without notification to the office personnel.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Citizenship Awards – Received at each semester. Based on good classroom behavior. (Receive excellent citizenship from each teacher on semester report)

Honor Roll - is compiled 1st & 2nd semesters to recognize academic excellence. Students who achieve a 3.5 GPA are identified as Honor Roll students and given a certificate.

Merit Awards - are given to outstanding scholars in each subject area each semester. Students selected for this award receive a certificate recognizing them as an outstanding achiever in a particular subject.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PE Classes - Students are required to change clothes for PE as follows:

Athletic shorts: black or dark green (length at least to the student's fingertips with the arm/hand extended against the thigh - no buttons or zippers).

Short sleeved t-shirt: plain white, dark green or gray (with last name written with permanent marker across the top back-no buttons or zippers).

Tennis shoes (non marking soles).

Absorbent socks.

Students may want to keep deodorant in their PE lockers as well.

Girls: will need to bring their own combination lock (no key locks please).

Optional:

Sweatpants: black or dark green

Sweatshirts: white, dark green or gray

Bulletin – Daily morning announcements are given over the intercom each day. Various school events and activities are announced, including sports sign up information. Students are expected to be listening attentively during the announcements so that information can be shared. The daily bulletin is posted on WMS web page daily.

Textbooks and Library books - Textbooks are loaned to students. Students will be required to pay for them if they are damaged or lost. Books are bar coded for easy tracking.

Library books are borrowed for a 2-week period. Students can check out up to 5 books at any one time. If a student has late books out they will not be able to borrow any additional books until those are returned. Books that are lost or damaged will be billed to the student.

Fines that are not paid by the end of the year will result in the holding back of report cards and yearbooks.

Electronic Devices - the Bellingham School District and Whatcom Middle School accept no responsibility for portable electronic devices (cell phones, portable music players, digital cameras, laptop computers, etc.) lost or stolen on school property. Students who choose to carry such devices do so at their own risk.

Portable electronic devices may not be displayed or used on school property during school hours.



Lockers - are assigned the first week of school. Students will share lockers with a partner (of their choice) from their core class. Students are asked to:

- Keep combinations confidential - DO NOT TELL FRIENDS.
- Keep the same partners for the year. No switching is allowed.
- Keep lockers neat and orderly. NO GARBAGE.
- Refrain from using self-adhering stickers, kicking, pounding, or writing on lockers.

Violation of the above may lead to the loss of locker privileges. If you are having locker problems - go to class. Once there you may report the problem to your teacher who will contact the custodian.

Lost but Found - Each year the school gives away many quality coats, sweaters, bags, shoes, etc. which are never claimed from our lost but found. For most items the lost but found is located on the 1st floor by the girl's P.E. area. For smaller items such as jewelry, glasses, keys etc. you can ask at the main office. Be sure to check these areas regularly.

SCHOOL SPECIAL EVENTS

You will find a variety of events taking place throughout the school year. Events may be sponsored by the PTSA, Whatcom ASB, Whatcom Middle School or a combination of the three. Some events include:

All School BBQ - held in September and June. Regular lunch prices apply. Hamburgers are cooked and eaten outdoors.

Assemblies - held throughout the year to provide cultural, educational and recreational experiences.

Book Fair - to help raise money for the library.

Concerts - band/choir/orchestra - evening performances.

Dances - after school parent and staff chaperoned.

Field Trips - throughout the year. Individual classes will send home information and permission slips.

Picture Day - in September students will bring home information regarding school pictures. All students are required to have their picture taken regardless of whether they purchase any.

Magazine Drive - to help raise money for school enrichment activities

Yearbook Sales - yearbook pre-sales will only take place in the Fall. Yearbooks will be handed out near the last day of school. No yearbooks will be available for sale at that time.

8th Grade Reception - during the last week of school to celebrate 8th graders advancing to high school.

FOOD PROGRAM AND NOON PROCEDURES

Meals - (breakfast and lunch) and milk may be pre-purchased in any amount from \$5 to \$50. Pre-purchased meals and milk are kept 'on account' and may be used any time. Payment can be made *prior* to lunchtime, any day in the Cafeteria. Financial assistance forms for Free or Reduced meals are available in the main office (also mailed home in August). New forms need to be completed at the start of each school year.

Students will be assigned a student meal number. When students make their food selection, the cashier will charge it against their account. Students may also pay cash for individual meals.

Prices

Breakfast	\$1.50 (for Adults 2.00)
Lunch	\$2.75 (for Adults 3.75)



(Price list 2008-2009- subject to change)

Choices

Regular meal - includes protein (meat or meat sub), vegetable and/or fruit, bread or bread alternate, milk.

The Deli - a selection of pre-made sandwiches, chef salad, bagels with cream cheese, vegetables with low fat dip, fruit, milk.

The Hot Spot - nachos, pizza and hot entrée each day. Vegetables and low fat dip, oven-baked tatter tots or mojos (on burger days), milk. The entrée changes daily and may feature: Burger Bar, Sub Sandwich, Taco Bar, or Pasta Bar.

Combo Meals - Students may choose a 'combo meal' from any of the food services. Pre-purchased meals or daily cash may be used. A combo must contain food from at least 3 of the 5 food groups (protein, grains, fruit, vegetables and dairy).

Monthly menus are available on line.

Cafeteria Helpers - are students who work during the lunch period to assist the cooks in getting daily lunches out. They work each day during their lunchtime.

Beyond the Meal Program - If parents wish to distribute food to students (parties), they are encouraged to purchase packaged food that meets the nutrition standards and to open and share that food at the time of consumption. The Food Services Department will provide and annually update a list of suggested items. (see list on district website:www.bham.wednet.edu)

Noontime Procedures -

- The "wings" of the 1st floor hall are closed during lunch.
- The stairwell next to the boys' locker room can be used for traffic to and from the cafeteria.
- The "wings" on the 2nd floor and the entire 3rd floor halls are off limits.
- The restrooms on 2nd floor may be used when the noon supervisor issues a hall pass.

The front doors of the building are used to enter/exit during lunch. The above rules are essential to avoid disruption to classes that are still in session during lunch.

The following areas will be open for students during lunch, whenever possible - library and auditorium. From time to time any or all areas may be closed due to other circumstances. Always be prepared to go outside during lunchtime. Noon duty aides will be on staff to assist with supervision.

Playground - The blacktop area and roadway in the front of the school is for the students' use. Students are to be on the school grounds at all times once they arrive - unless they have written guardian permission to leave. Parking lot areas, the area behind the music building, the paved area behind



the school, and the sides of the school are off limits to students during lunch. Battersby Field may only be used under direct teacher supervision - PE classes have first priority.

Whatcom Middle School provides a variety of outdoor equipment for students' use. If you bring your own please keep in mind that no "hard" balls are permitted only "soft" balls.

TRANSPORTATION

School doors open at 8:00 a.m. for students arriving early for the breakfast program at school.

The first bell rings at 8:25 a.m. The late bell rings at 8:30 a.m. School ends at 3:00 p.m.

Whatcom Middle School is a closed campus - Students must remain on campus from first arrival at school until they leave at 3:00 p.m. Unless parents have requested (in writing) for their student to leave campus, leaving the school grounds without permission is cause for disciplinary action.

Walking to school - Students are encouraged to walk on sidewalks whenever possible or to walk on the left hand side of the road. Please respect the property of school neighbors. (stay off lawns!)

Riding to school - Students are encouraged to follow the rules of the road and wear a proper fitting helmet. Three bike racks are available at Whatcom on the front blacktop area. Bikes are to remain locked during the school day - unless you are leaving the premises (with permission). Skateboards, roller blades, scooters, shoes with wheels, are not to be ridden on school grounds. Please make sure these items are stored away during the day.

Parking and drop-offs - Students who are driven to school, can be dropped off behind the building on Irving Street or on either side of the school ("D" street or "F" street).

The front of the School is CLOSED to all traffic except school buses from 7:00 am - 6:00 pm.
NO EXCEPTIONS!

Bus information - Occasionally school starting times and bus schedules or routes will be changed due to weather conditions. Buses may operate on a delayed schedule. You may need to "walk out" in some areas.
See Student Health & Safety.

Transportation routes are published prior to the opening of each school year. Should your student's bus route need to change, the driver will inform them.

These are the bus rules students are expected to follow:

- When waiting for the school bus, stand away from the street.
- Do not push or shove other students.
- Unless entering the bus through the front door, it is unsafe to walk next to the bus in front, back, or sides. The drivers cannot see anyone in these areas.
- Remain seated until the bus has come to a complete stop.
- No tripping, hitting, throwing objects, or other behavior that will distract the driver or cause harm to others.
- You may not bring items into the bus that could cause harm or disruption, such as live animals, clubs or bats, real or toy weapons, inflated balloons, skateboards, flammable liquids, items higher than your knee level. If you need to bring a special item to school that would qualify as one of the above, please make prior arrangements with the bus driver or try to get a ride to school that day.
- Follow the bus driver's rules and directions.



School bus drivers work to maintain order and discipline. If students receive warnings and no change occurs in their behavior, the driver will issue a written discipline slip. The school office, under the direction of the assistant principal, will handle discipline:

- **Bus referral #1** – School discipline
- **Bus referral #2** – Loss of bus privilege for 1 week
- **Bus referral #3** – Loss of bus privilege long term

For student safety, their bus driver will conduct emergency drills several times a year so students will know what to do in the event of an emergency.

Friends on the Bus - Students who wish to get off at a different stop must obtain a variance authorization (pink slip) from the office. To receive the variance slip a written note from the guardian is required listing the location of the different bus stop (John's stop is not acceptable). Students need to take notes to the attendance office prior to 12:30 PM.

No last minute bus passes will be issued!

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

Phone Calls Home – Students may call home using the classroom phone, with permission from the teacher. Students who are not feeling well, need to call home from the attendance/nurse's office only.

Notes/Calls/Deliveries from Home - Reminders and/or information regarding appointments and after-school activities should be given at home. The office

staff will deliver messages only in the event of an emergency and then only if from a parent or guardian. Non-emergency messages are delivered during specific periods when office workers are available.

Deliveries for students need to be dropped off in the main office. It is the student's responsibility to check the counter for their items. In the event that the student is not aware a delivery is coming, office workers, when available, will deliver to classrooms.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Back to School Night – is held in September and provides an opportunity for parents and teachers to get acquainted. This is a night to provide general information about the curriculum, course content and special activities planned for the year.

Phone - Teachers have voice mail. The best time to reach teachers is before 8:25 am or after 3:00 p.m. Calls for teachers during the day, will be put through to their voicemail.

Daily Bulletin – Student information is given via the daily morning bulletin, which is read over the PA system.

E-mail - A good way to communicate with teachers. At the beginning of the school year, a list of email addresses are mailed home for your convenience. You may also access our Whatcom Middle School web page at wwwmw.bham.wednet.edu - Under "contacts" you will find a list of all the faculty members who have email.



Web Page - Check out our school web page. The daily bulletin is posted along with other school information. Look for individual class web pages in the near future. wwwwms.bham.wednet.edu

Conferences - are student led and will be held in November/December. Additional academic support conferences will take place throughout the school year.

Meetings - We encourage parents to keep in touch with teachers. Our staff is always available for appointments. Direct communication between home and school helps to facilitate learning.

Newsletter- WMS sends home a monthly newsletter with information about school activities, issues and concerns. This newsletter also contains PTSA information. Look for your copy in the mail each month. Dual households will each receive a copy.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents can become involved in middle school in a variety of ways. Although students may express independence at this age, they still enjoy parental participation - especially at a distance.

Parents can participate by working on a committee for the PTSA or volunteering in the school. This might include offering help to a particular teacher, answering questionnaires, attending meetings or activities, coming to Back to School Night and conferences, and staying informed about your student's school activities.

You are encouraged to become familiar with the school and how it works. If you volunteer for an activity at school, it will help you feel a part of our school community.

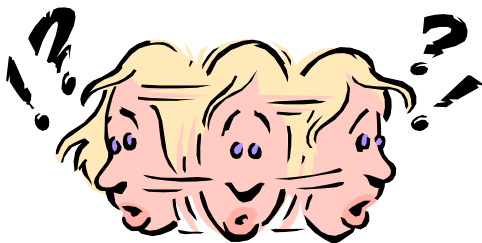
PTSA - The Parent, Teacher, Student Association has general meetings throughout the year. Times and dates will be in the monthly newsletter. Any parent is welcome to come and participate. A membership drive is held in the fall.

The PTSA offers many opportunities for involvement. New officers and committee heads are sought each spring. Find what interests you and plan your service for the years your child is at Whatcom.

Visitors - All visitors must report to the main office to sign in and receive a Whatcom Middle School sticker. Classroom visits during class time need to be prearranged with teachers. All visitors to any part of the school must first report to the main office.

Anyone volunteering on a regular basis **MUST** have a Disclosure Form on file. Anyone who will have regularly scheduled, unsupervised access to children or developmentally disabled persons **MUST** have a State Patrol Background on file (this includes fingerprints).

WHO'S WHO ON CAMPUS



Associated Student Body (ASB) - has elected student officers and representatives from Core Classes. They plan activities and represent students on other school committees.

Cafeteria Staff - prepare, plan and serve breakfast and lunch for students and staff. They follow health regulations to ensure healthy meals. Student lunch accounts are maintained by the Cafeteria staff.

Counselors - encourage and enhance the academic, social and emotional growth of Whatcom students. Students access the counselors by coming to the counseling office and signing up with the counseling secretary for an appointment. The school counselors work closely with students, families, and staff and act as a liaison with community agencies.

Custodial Staff - maintain the cleanliness and appearance of the building and grounds. They also repair and replace defective furniture and equipment.

Itinerant Staff - travel between a number of schools to provide special services to students. They are: Psychologists, Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, English Language Learner Teacher, Highly Capable Learner Teacher, Nurse etc.

Library Media Specialist - is responsible for the books, equipment and other materials in Whatcom's Learning Resource Center. The library media specialist teaches lessons on the available resources, assists students and teachers in the use of resources, and supervises the checkout system for library books and materials. The library media specialist also serves as the resource person for dealing with the computer labs and their resources.

Principal and Assistant Principal - are responsible for the overall operation of the educational, social and recreational programs of Whatcom Middle School.

Secretaries and Para-Educators - assist the principal, assistant principal, Counselors and teachers in accomplishing their responsibilities. Secretaries and Para-Educators deal with student records, instructional materials, attendance procedures, and serve as references for parent and student inquiries.

Students - are here to participate in and receive a public education.

Teachers - are responsible for the required and elective courses at Whatcom. They plan instructional lessons and activities designed to meet the educational goals of the Bellingham School District.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

2008-09

September

- 2 First Day of School
- 11 Picture Day
- 18 Back To School Night 6:30 pm
- 29 Early Release 11:30 Dismissal

October

- 20 Early Release 11:30 Dismissal
- 22 Picture Re-Take Day

November

- 10,11 No School
- 20,21,24,25 Conferences 11:30 Dismissal
- 26 Early Release 11:30 Dismissal
- 27,28 No School

December

- 8 Early Release 11:30 Dismissal
- 19 Early Release 11:30 Dismissal
- 22-Jan 2 No School

January

- 5 School Resumes
- 19,26 No School

February

- 13 No School
- 16 No School

March

- 2 Early Release 11:30 Dismissal
- 23 Early Release 11:30 Dismissal

April

- 6-10 No School
- 27 Early Release 11:30 Dismissal

May

- 18 Early Release 11:30 Dismissal
- 25 No School

June

- 12 Last Day of School

FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

....I like myself

First day of school
....I can think for myself

....I can take responsibility
for my actions

....There is no problem so great
that it cannot be solved!



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I Pledge Allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America
and to the Republic for which it
stands, one Nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty
and justice for all.





BOOKS I'VE READ

TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	PAGES	DATE COMP.

CONTEMPORARY FICTION SPORTS HUMOR
HISTORICAL FICTION FANTASY/SCIENCE FICTION
ADVENTURE
MYSTERY ANIMALS
BIOGRAPHY AUTOBIOGRAPHY

WHATCOM MIDDLE SCHOOL



2008-2009

School Hours: 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Office Hours: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Main office (360) 676-6460 ext. 9

Attendance office ext. 7

Counseling & Registration ext. 8

810 Halleck St., Bellingham, WA 98225

www.wms.bham.wednet.edu

Mr. Jeff Coulter
Principal

Ms. Ann Buswell
Assistant Principal

This student planner
belongs to:

Name: _____

Teacher: _____



The undersigned :

- Read through and understand the contents of this handbook
- Agreed to purchase a new book if the one issued is lost or destroyed
- Understand that all assignments are to be recorded and will be checked periodically as a required part of the WMS curriculum
- Agreed that this planner must be taken by the student to all classes and will be taken home for parents' signature and comments

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date



TABLE OF CONTENTS



Athletics	page 4-5
Attendance	page 3-4
Behavioral Expectations	page 5-6
Bell Schedule	page 2
BSD Middle School Philosophy	page 2
BSD Mission/Vision Statement	page 1
BSD Strategic Plan Outcome	page 2
Bulletin	page 7
Calendar of Events	page 12
Clubs	page 4
Communication	page 10
Dress Code	page 6
Electronic Devices	page 8
Events	page 8
Food Program	page 8-9
Friends on the Bus	page 10
Health & Safety	page 6-7
Homework Request	page 3-4
Illness/Injury	page 6-7
Immunization	page 6
Leaving School Early	page 4
Lockers	page 8
Lost & Found	page 8
Medication at School	page 6-7
Noon Time Procedures	page 9
Our Beliefs	page 1
Parent Involvement	page 11
Parking/Drop Off	page 9
P.E.	page 7
Phone Calls To and From Home	page 10
Playground	page 9
PTSA	page 11
School Day/Year	page 2-3
Semester Schedule	page 3
Student Assessments	page 3
Student Enrichment	page 4
Student Recognition	page 7
Text Books/Library Books	page 7-8
Transfer Requests	page 3
Transportation	page 9-10
Visitors	page 11
Weather Emergencies	page 7
Welcome	page 1
Who's Who on Campus	page 11
Withdrawing a Student	page 4
WMS Mission Statement	page 1

