

Whatcom Middle School 2021-22 Student Handbook



Mr. Jeff Coulter, Principal
Mrs. Tina Allsop, Assistant Principal

WHATCOM MIDDLE SCHOOL FOUR PILLARS



Tenacity Compassion Excellence Stewardship

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 and non-WMS students go to the Main Office to sign in.

THE BELLINGHAM PROMISE

We, as a community, make a collective commitment to Bellingham's children. We will empower every child to discover and develop a passion, contribute to their community, and achieve a fulfilling and productive life.

We collectively commit that our students are cared for and respected, and that they will graduate from our schools prepared for success. All students will be exceptional in their own way, with strong character, a passion for learning, and ready for the widest range of educational and vocational options to support a diversity of life choices.

DAILY SCHEDULE

School doors to the Commons area open at 9:00 am for the breakfast program at school. The first bell rings at 9:00 am signaling the students may enter the school. The second bells rings at 9:10, signaling it's the time to be in the classroom. The late bell rings at 9:15 am. School ends at 3:45 pm. Club members may enter through the Commons at 8:10 am.

Bells will ring as follows on regular school days:

9:00 School doors are unlocked
9:10 warning bell
9:15 late bell
11:20 no bell (7th grade goes to lunch)
11:50 lunch bell (7th grade goes back to class – 8th grade goes to lunch)
12:24 lunch bell (8th grade goes back to class – 6th grade goes to lunch)
12:54 lunch bell (6^h grade goes back to class)
3:45 dismissal bell



A/B Days

Elective and PE Classes alternate on A & B Days. The A/B Calendar can be found on the WMS Website under “Our School”.

Early Dismissal Days are listed on the school calendar. Students are dismissed at 12:00 on Early Dismissal Days and are expected to leave the school premises shortly after release time.

The Main Office is open from 8:45 am to 4:15 pm. This is the information center for the school. Students may come to the office at 9:00 to inquire about athletics, make an appointment with the Principal or Assistant Principal or for general school questions.

The Attendance window/office is open from 9:00 am to 4:15 pm. This is where students report to first thing in the morning if they have been absent, late, leaving early, or needing a bus note.

The Student Services/Counseling Office is open from 8:45 am to 4:00 pm. It is located across from the Main Office. For scheduling questions, see a Counselor, or for general registration and immunization questions students will go to Student Services.

ATTENDANCE

There is a direct correlation between attendance and performance. It is essential to attend school regularly and to be on time to every class. Students are responsible for making up missed work due to an absence. Many learning opportunities such as guest speakers, special presentations, labs, discussions, etc. are not possible to duplicate or make up, therefore, it is essential that students are committed to being present and engaged in the learning that takes place in the classroom at school.

If you are absent from school, your parent/guardian needs to call or email the school office on or before the morning of the absence and leave a message with the following information: name, the reason for absence and if they give permission to excuse or not to excuse the absence. For pre-arranged long-term absences, you will notify the school well in advance and pick up an absence contract from the attendance office. This contract is taken to my teachers to fill in suggestions on what I can do while away to stay caught up with the class.

Repeated absences will result in phone calls home and administrative intervention.

Being on Time

Being ready to learn starts with being fully present, prepared and on time. When students are on time to class, they benefit from start-up instructions and announcements. Being on time is also respectful behavior and allows teachers and classmates to focus on schoolwork without interruption. If students are late to school in the morning, they need to bring a note from a parent or guardian and check in at the attendance window before going to class. A tardy is excused or

unexcused in the same manners as absences. Running late, sleeping in, and missing the school bus are examples of an unexcused tardy. Still, we understand that sometimes these situations occur and we ask that students commit to getting to classes on time.

Leaving School Early

Bring a note signed by a parent/guardian to the attendance office in the *morning*. The note needs to include what time you need to leave school. You will be issued a permit slip to leave school grounds at the designated time and meet parent/guardian at a pre-arranged location.

If you need to leave school early and were not sent to school with a note, your parent/guardian will need to come to the **Attendance** Office to sign you out. Students **may not** leave school during the day without a permit slip from the Attendance Office.

Homework Requests

When absent, it is the student's responsibility to get any missed assignments. Parents/guardians may email teachers directly. Staff email addresses can be found on the WMS website by clicking the Contact button.

Closed Campus

Whatcom Middle School is a closed campus - You must remain on campus from first arrival at school until you are dismissed at the end of the school day. Unless your guardian has requested (in writing) for you to leave campus early, leaving the school grounds without permission is cause for disciplinary action.

Key Reminders for Students, 2021-2022

We believe that all students are capable of the following guidelines, and we will teach students to follow them to ensure the safety of everyone. Our students do a great job of stepping up to the challenge! Here are the big things to remember for students, and remember the guidelines are always subject to change:

- Keep masks on the whole time you're inside.
- When outside, wearing masks is optional. Make sure you give your peers space.
- Keep a three-foot distance when in class whenever possible and keep a bubble when walking down the hall. We can't physically contact any other students or adults.
- Go directly to your classes or designated areas and don't congregate with others in inside common areas.
- Come to school with fully charged laptops and charging cords.
- Follow all directions given by adults, as well as all signs such as maximum capacity signs at bathrooms.
- Wash or sanitize hands upon entering the building, before and after eating, and after using the bathroom

TRANSPORTATION TO/FROM SCHOOL

Bus routes are published prior to the opening of each school year at: <http://www.infofinderi.com>

Students are expected to follow these rules:

- Drivers are in charge of the bus and students.
- Students crossing roads must do so under the direction of the bus driver and cross only in front of the bus. (City bus rules are different. Children should not cross in front of a city bus.)
- Observe classroom conduct on the bus. Be courteous. Do not use profane language, teasing or name calling.
- Keep the bus clean. Eating, drinking and chewing gum are not allowed.
- Remain seated at all times. Keep head and hands inside the bus.
- No plants, animals or hazardous objects are allowed on the bus.
- All items brought on the bus should be in a backpack and held on the student's lap except for approved musical instruments (see details below).
- Stow away electronic devices during the loading and unloading process.
- Masks are required while on the bus.

Note: Washington State Administrative Code 392-145 prohibits the transport of heavy, sharp, bulky or other items in the passenger area of any school bus that may be hazardous in the event of an accident or emergency stop. For transportation

to and from school, this includes curriculum-related items such as larger musical instruments (maximum available dimensions: 36x10x8 inches). Items that pose a safety threat such as skateboards, roller blades, kites, etc., are also prohibited.

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. 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, bus drivers will conduct emergency drills several times a year so students will know what to do in the event of an emergency.

Students wishing to ride a different bus home must bring a note, signed by parent/guardian, to the attendance office first thing in the morning. The note must include the Bus # and which bus stop location (street names). NO bus notes are issued after 3:45 pm.

Drop off and pick up

Students can be dropped off behind the school on Irving Street or on either side of the school on D Street or F Street. To avoid traffic congestion, parents and guardians can also make arrangements to drop students off a few blocks away where they can then walk to school. This is the same for pick up after school.

The front of the School is **CLOSED** to all traffic except school buses when the **ROAD CLOSED SIGN IS OUT! NO EXCEPTIONS!**

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

WMS rules are: Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful.

WMS Students have the right to:

- A quality education.
- A safe school environment that respects their dignity and self-worth.
- Participate in co-curricular activities.
- Be informed of their 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 cell phones in backpack.
- Move through halls appropriately.
- 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 arranged 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 infractions. (see Behaviors) (see Student Rights and Responsibility Form on Page 14)

Bikes, scooters, and skateboards

Students must follow the rules of the road and wear a proper fitting helmet when riding bikes to school and lock up their bikes in the bike racks in front of the school. The school cannot be held responsible if a bicycle is stolen or damaged. Skateboards and scooters can be stored in the main office.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices are to remain off and put away in backpacks during the school day, including lunch time, from 9:15 am – 3:45 pm on full school days or 9:15 am – 12:00 pm on early dismissal days. If a student needs to call home, they can make calls from the attendance window or a classroom phone with teacher permission. Students who are in violation of these rules may have their devices confiscated by a staff member and locked up in a secure location in the main office. Students are responsible for calling home from the attendance window to report the confiscation and arrange for a parent/guardian to come pick up the device.

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. If you choose to carry such devices to school, you do so at my own risk.

Dress Code

Part of [The Bellingham Promise](#), our strategic plan, strives to develop students and graduates who are *respectful and compassionate humans*. We want students to respect themselves and others. While we encourage individuality, the district's dress code aims to foster a positive and healthy environment.

- Students should dress casually and comfortably for school, while wearing clothing that is well-suited for a school environment.
- Clothing will cover torso, midriff and backside, and have sleeves or straps.
- Head or faces will be uncovered. Appropriate headgear may be worn for warmth and protection outdoors, and inside for religious reasons or special circumstances.
- Clothing, drawings, tattoos and accessories that display or promote negative messages are not permitted. These could include drug, gang, weapon, alcohol or tobacco-related information, obscenities, put-downs, stereotypes, sexual innuendo, offensive words or graphics.
- A violation of the dress code will require a change of clothing.
- Special circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

For more information about our dress code guidelines, please visit bellingshamschools.org/dresscode.

Fragrances can sometimes have adverse effects on sensitive individuals. If your fragrance interferes with learning, health, safety or is offensive to others you will be asked to wash it off.

Chewing gum at school is a privilege. Students are expected to chew responsibly and when you need to discard my gum you will do so in a garbage can. Students will not chew gum in the library or in any classroom where instructed not to do so.

Hall Passes

It may occasionally be necessary for you to leave a classroom during class time. Teachers will issue a hall pass when this occurs. Following these steps helps the entire school maintain a safe, friendly, and well-managed learning climate. If you are found to be in the hallways without a hall pass you will be asked to go back to class and get one.

Lost and Found

Each year, many quality coats, sweaters, bags, shoes, etc. are added to the lost and found and are never claimed from our lost and found. Students should check the lost and found on a regular basis. Smaller items such as jewelry, glasses, keys etc., may be in the Main Office.

Yearbooks are issued free of charge to every student during the last week of school. Students who have outstanding fines will have their yearbooks held until the fines are paid.

Picture Day is usually scheduled in September with a make-up day in October. Notifications will be emailed to families prior to picture day, inviting families to purchase a packet online.

BEHAVIOR

Classroom/School 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/guardians and staff work together to promote a positive school environment.

Discipline may include removal from class, lunch detention, before school detention, community service, and Friday school. For exceptional or continual misconduct, disciplinary action includes short-term suspension, long-term suspension, and expulsion.

Major offenses are of such a nature that they warrant an immediate referral to the Principal or Assistant Principal. The following is a 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/vapes/alcohol
- Fighting
- Truancy
- Theft
- Vandalism
- Arson
- Assault
- Inappropriate use of email

The consequences for major infractions are severe and progressive:

- 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 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.

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying

Students are entitled to a safe, non-threatening learning environment free from harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Harassment, intimidation, and bullying can take many forms including: slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendos, demeaning comments, drawings, cartoons, pranks, gestures, physical attacks, threats, or written, oral, or physical actions.

A positive environment starts with everyone monitoring their own words and actions and by treating others with kindness and respect. If students see or experience harassment or bullying, they should get the help of an adult. Students can show courage and make a positive difference in school climate by taking the following steps when unwanted and unwelcome behaviors or situations present themselves:

- Tell the person who is harassing or bullying that their actions are unwanted and that you want them stopped. If a person's behavior makes you uncomfortable, say so when it first occurs.
- If the behavior does not stop, look for others who can support you in making a report.
- Always make sure an adult knows if you are being harassed. If the harassment continues, get help from an adult.
- If you see someone else being harassed, help them move away from the person who is harassing or bullying and report the incident to an adult.

- Do not join in with unkind behavior. Laughing at or ignoring actions that are cruel, harmful and hurtful sends a signal that you find the behavior funny or acceptable.
- Help create a positive environment by making sure your words and actions are kind. Stay away from gossip, cruel comments, and insults—and from people who make them. Choose friends that make you a better person

Students who may be a victim of bullying or harassment should report the offense to a teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, counselor, or any available adult staff member, who will help to find a safe solution to the problem.

For students who choose to engage in an “intentional act” of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, discipline will be determined with policy 3200 of the Bellingham School District policy. Administrative staff will work with the student and their parents/guardians to determine consequences and support them in improving behavior and restoring trust. Everyone will always be welcomed back into our community to the extent possible.

<p>Bellingham Safe Schools Alert</p>
<p>Text or call (844) 310-9560</p>
<p>Confidential and anonymous reporting</p>
<p>Text or call if you have a concern about safety, you know something about a possible threat or you are concerned someone you know could be in trouble.</p>
<p>Call or text to report: Bullying, Intimidation, Fighting, Weapons, Drugs, Other Safety Concerns</p>

ACADEMICS

Progress Reports

Progress Reports - are issued at mid-term each semester. The progress report is intended to be a “check-point” indicating my achievement of grade level standards, mid-way through a term.

Standard Based Assessments

Teachers use ongoing classroom based assessments to personalize instruction, monitor student progress and measure achievement. Teachers may use observations, discussions, quizzes, tests, presentations, performances and other tools to assess students’ understandings. The state and district use assessments to provide information about individual and group achievement. District assessments measure students’ reading, writing and math proficiency. They also help identify students who may benefit from additional interventions or enrichment. The state assessment given each spring in grades through 6-8 is the Smarter Based Assessment (SBA). Other assessments may include: Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and Oral Reading Fluency (ORF). These assessments help improve student learning. Families will receive individual score reports from their schools in the fall.

A report card will be mailed home to me at the end of each semester.

Class Transfer request

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

LIBRARY

Library Books are borrowed for a 2-week period. Students can check out up to 5 books at any one time. Books that are lost or damaged will result in a fine. Fines that are not paid by the end of the year will result in the holding back of report cards and yearbooks.

Text Books are barcoded for easy tracking. Students are responsible for proper care and use. Fines will be issued for lost or damaged textbooks. Fines that are not paid by the end of the year will result in the holding back of report cards and yearbooks.

Email/Internet Use

I will receive an email account and access to district network resources after participating in a yearly *Acceptable Use Policy* presentation.

Internet access is available to further educational goals and objectives, students will be safe, smart and responsible users of all district network resources, including email and access to the Internet. Violations of the *Acceptable Use Policy* will result in a loss of access.

ACTIVITIES

ASB

Associated Student Body – students may run for president, vice president, secretary or treasurer to represent their classmates. Students may also run for class representative. They must be an active and participating member of the leadership club to run for office.

The ASB and Leadership Club may sponsor activities such as Food Drives, Spirit Week, Social/Dance.

ASB Cards are free to all students and are issued on picture day at the time of photographing.

Clubs

Whatcom may offer before and/or after school clubs throughout the year. Clubs are run by a staff member or parent. Students may choose to sign up for clubs but will need guardian approval and can find out about clubs by listening to the morning announcements, checking our WMS webpage or checking the monitors located in the Commons and in the Main Office.

Concerts

Band/choir/orchestra will have evening performances during the school year. Music teachers will give students and their families specific details.

Field Trips

Field Trips will take place throughout the year. Individual classes will send home information and permission slips. Students may only participate in a field trip if they have the proper guardian signed papers on file with my teacher.

8th Grade Celebration

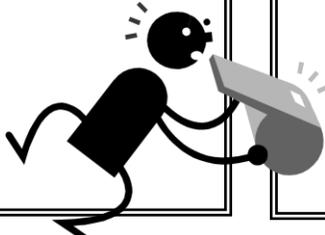
During the last week of their 8th grade year, students will have the opportunity to celebrate their middle school years with their classmates. This is not a graduation (as that occurs in high school) nor is it a formal occasion. It will be a fun, organized way to remember our years together and to celebrate our promotion to high school. School dress code will be in effect. Specific details will be given closer to the end of the year.

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. There is no fee to participate in middle school sports.

Interschool Athletics:

***6 th Grade Sports Offerings	***7 th and 8 th Grade Sports Offerings
Fall (September – October) Track Boys and Girls Soccer	Fall (September – October) Track Boys and Girls Soccer
Pre-Winter (November – January) Floor Exercise & Dance Intramural Basketball	Pre-Winter (November – January) Boys Basketball Floor Exercise & Dance
Winter (February – April) Wrestling Intramural Volleyball	Winter (February – April) Wrestling Girls Volleyball
Spring (April – June) Cross Country	Spring (April – June) Football Girls Basketball Cross Country



Parents/guardians will register online using the activities and athletics registration form within Final Forms. After completing the online registration forms, students will need to be cleared for each sports season in the main office before they can participate in any sport.

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 24-month period. Physical exams are not needed for participation in intramural athletics.

Coaches will provide more information such as times and schedules once the season has begun. Activity buses will transport students to and from the games/meets.

COMMUNICATION

Morning Announcements are recorded and emailed to all students and staff twice a week. Students are expected to listen to the announcements for important information such as sports deadlines, picture day reminders, and schedule cancellations. The announcements are also posted on the WMS website, under “Our School”.

Newsletter

WMS creates a monthly newsletter with information about upcoming school activities and events. The newsletter is posted on the school webpage and is sent via SchoolMessenger to anyone signed up to receive our emails.

Email is a very important mode of communication between students and staff. Students should be checking their school email every day. Staff email addresses are available on our website by clicking on the Contact link.

Back to School Night is held in early fall and provides an opportunity for parents/guardians and teachers to get acquainted. This is a night when *general* information will be provided about the curriculum, course content and special activities planned for the year. Students are not expected to attend this event.

Deliveries/Communication for students

Lunches or other items delivered by parents/guardians to the main office can be found on the table just inside the doors. Notes will either be delivered to classrooms or students may be called down to the offices to pick them up.

Phone Calls home

Students may call home using their classroom phone, with permission from their teacher, but if they are not feeling well, they should come to attendance/nurse's office first. The nurse or office staff will assess the student and then make a phone call home. Students may also use the phone at the attendance window to make calls home providing they have permission to be out of class.

Webpage

Our school's webpage is: www.whatcom.bellinghamschools.org This is a great site to check for school events and activities. Our morning announcements is posted on our website along with our monthly newsletter and other pertinent information. Athletic schedules and links to various other events are also posted here.

HEALTH

HIV/AIDS

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 my guardian must preview the curriculum materials before they can have me excused from participation in the HIV prevention program. Opportunity to preview the curriculum materials is provided each year at a guardian information night. The HIV prevention program is usually taught during the spring. Information letters reminding guardians are sent out prior to the presentation of the curriculum.

Illness

If a student gets sick or injured at school, they should check in with the attendance secretary. There is a temporary health room where they can wait for a parent/guardian to come pick them up.

Medications at School

The Bellingham School District has a strict policy on the possession and/or taking of medicines at school.

For oral medicine (prescription or over the counter medicine such as aspirin, Tylenol, cough drops, etc.):

- An authorization form, signed by a physician and parent/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.
- Guardians 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.

Responsible students who choose to bring a 1 day's dose to school each day may opt for the "Self-medication" form instead but still be subject to:

- An authorization form, signed by a physician and parent/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.
- Students may carry my one dose each day along with paperwork which I must present if an adult inquired about the medication I have in my possession.

These forms can be picked up from the attendance office.

Vision, Hearing & Scoliosis Screening

7th graders will receive vision, hearing and a scoliosis screening test in the winter. If there are any problems, a parent/guardian will be contacted by the school nurse.

MEAL PROGRAM

Lunches and Breakfasts are provided free of charge for all students during the 2021-22 school year.

- Students will wash or sanitize hands before and after eating.
- We encourage students to sit in designate spaces in the Commons and outside.
- Students may remove their masks to eat, but are required to put their masks back on after they finish eating.
- Students will dispose of their trash responsibly and take lunch containers inside at the end of their lunch period.
- Students will go outside after eating. Please remain in front of the school – the sides and back of the school are off limits.
- Play equipment is available or you may choose to go to the library when it is open and not being used for classes.
- Dress for the weather!

Grab & Go lunches will be provided on Early Dismissal days.

Monthly menus are available online at www.bellinghamschools.org

Food for Class Parties

Requests to bring food/drinks to the classroom must be approved by the classroom teacher. If parents wish to bring 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. (www.bellinghamschools.org) Home baked goods are not permitted.

RECOGNITIONS

PAWS – Pillar AWard Student

Pillar **AW**ards are given to students that a staff member wants to recognize for demonstrating one of the four pillars: Stewardship, Compassion, Tenacity and Excellence. Pillar **AW**ard Students take their award to the Assistant Principal who will trade it for a special treat and hang the award on the '*Wall of Wonderfulness*'.

Wildcat Pride Award

Wildcat Pride Awards are given to students nominated by any staff member for their exceptional work or significant improvement in areas of our four pillars: Stewardship, Compassion, Tenacity and Excellence.

SAFETY

Earthquakes, Fire Drills and Lockdowns

Earthquake, fire and lockdown drills will occur at specific times throughout the school year to practice how to leave the building in a quick and orderly fashion in case of an emergency alarm.

Visitors

All visitors must report to the Main Office to sign in and receive a Whatcom Middle School badge. 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.

Volunteers

Persons wishing to volunteer at the school must be cleared by the district office and contact the main office prior to their visit.

Weather Emergencies



Severe weather or other emergencies may cause changes to the school day. When this happens, schools may need to close, start late or dismiss early. Plan in advance for such emergencies. Please ensure that your child's school has your family's current emergency contact information. We understand that decisions about school schedules and bus route changes have an impact on our families. We appreciate your patience during these situations. While we know that our students and families are best served when we are open, our main concern is the safety of our students and staff.

Typically, decisions regarding schedule changes are made in the early morning before school. This allows for the most current weather information to factor into the decision. This information is communicated immediately, generally before 6 a.m. In severe weather or an emergency situation:

- Check the website: bellingshamschools.org;
- Call 676-6400 for a recorded message.
- Tune to broadcast media, including:
 - KGMI Radio 790 AM and 96.5 FM
 - KAFE Radio 104.1 FM
 - KOMO-TV Ch. 4
 - KING-TV Ch. 5
 - KIRO-TV Ch. 7