



Hive Jive

Williamston Middle School

December 4, 2020

It is great to see students participating during asynchronous and synchronous sessions. Please see the schedule for the week of December 7. I look forward to our next two weeks and the ongoing learning that will take place.

12/7	12/8	12/9	12/10	12/11
<u>Class Hours</u> 4th - 6th	<u>Class Hours</u> 1st - 3rd	<u>Class Hours</u> 4th - 6th	<u>Class Hours</u> 1st - 3rd	<u>Class Hours</u> 4th - 6th

I encourage all parents to view their child's grades and attendance in PowerSchool. This is the tool teachers use to keep families informed and updated with academic progress. If there are any questions related to grades, please contact your child's teacher directly.

UpComing Events

December 9 - Be nice. virtual luncheon (see details below)

December 19-January 3, No School K-12, Winter Break

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Hornet Heroes Recognition Program - New to WMS!

PALs (Peer Assistance Leaders) are excited to launch a new Williamston Middle School staff recognition program called '**Hornet Heroes.**' The purpose of this program is to highlight the creative, helpful, and ongoing hard work of our staff members. In this unprecedented time, providing 'shout outs' to our teachers, paraprofessionals, office staff, and support staff is important to us. PALs aim to build a strong sense of community and positive atmosphere within our school. This program supports our mission.

The Hornet Heroes program highlights 5 randomly selected staff members per month. Each student has received an email with an invitation to add a 'shout out' to a staff member that is highlighted. Entries for our November Hornet Heroes are due December 11th. Thank you for encouraging your child to participate.

Buzz Ticket Winners for November

Buzz tickets are awarded by staff members to students when they are being particularly respectful, responsible, safe, or engaged during class. Each ticket that is awarded is entered in a monthly drawing for a prize package from The Studio Shop valued at \$25. Congratulations to the November winners: Jayla - 6th grade and Anna - 7th grade. Thank you for making WMS a great place to learn!

8th Grade Students - Math & Science Academy Update from Mr. Rasmus

This is a brief update on the Math and Science Academy (MSA) process for this school year. Typically, I come into the 8th grade science classes at this time of year to present about the MSA to students and give them an invitation to bring home to parents for an evening presentation I give as well. With our current situation regarding Covid-19 and WHS currently being remote with no building access, this is not feasible at this time. We are also awaiting updates from the MDHHS on the next step after the current shutdown. As such, we have decided to push back the start of the presentation and application process until after we return from Winter Break. At that time I will send another message updating everyone on how we plan to proceed with applications and testing this year for the MSA. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at rasmusj@gowcs.net.

Thank you,

Joe Rasmus

Mathematics Teacher/Director of Math and Science Academy/Sponsor of Mu Alpha Theta
Williamston High School

Be nice. Virtual Luncheon

A virtual social lunch event for students is Wednesday Dec 9th from 11:50AM -12:10 PM. Join the event [here](#) or [access the classroom by using code:6jlxidg](#). Please see the [be nice flyer](#) for additional details.

Model United Nations (MUN)

If you are looking for hands-on experiences with politics and current events, then please join MUN on Wednesdays at 3:15 PM. For more details visit the [MUN link](#).

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Old Newsboys Association footwear resource:

Applications are now available to receive a voucher to purchase footwear. Children are eligible for this program if they qualify for free or reduced lunch. Contact Anne McKinney (655-4668 ext. 6520 or mckinna@gowcs.net) for more information.

Operation Warmth

Operation Warmth is a local charity that provides winter coats, gloves, and hats to children in the Williamston community. If your family is in need of these items, please email operationwarmthmi@gmail.com or call 517-899-7318 for more information.

Applications for Holiday Assistance:

Especially now more than ever, some families are in financial need of assistance. A local charity is assisting families with holiday gifts for children. If your family would benefit,

please contact Mrs. McKinney at 655-4668 ext. 6520 or mckinna@gowcs.net for more information and an application. The deadline for completed applications is December 11th. Please reach out as soon as possible to participate.

Williamston Food Bank - assists families this season and every month throughout the year. Please email williamstonmifoodbank@gmail.com or call 517-655-3813 to make arrangements for food assistance.

Food Distribution

Effective Tuesday, September 15, distribution will be on Tuesday and Thursday. Meals will be available at the high school on the front drive from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The Tuesday meal bundle will include meals for three days and the meal bundle on Thursday will include meals for four days. If you have questions, please call 517-706-5028 and leave your name and phone number. Please visit the [food service page on the web](#) or if you have questions call 517-706-5012.

[Winter break meal service information](#) - Please see linked information to assist with pick up days and times.

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Counseling Office News from Mrs. McKinney and Mrs. Michalski

We are here to support your student's academic and mental health needs. During remote learning, we have created a google classroom called "WMS Counseling Office with Mrs. McKinney & Mrs. Michalski" to provide students and families with resources in a variety of topics. We highly encourage all students to join the google classroom if they have not done so already. New material will be uploaded weekly.

Check out what's new in the WMS Counseling Office Google Classroom:

- **Holiday Activities for Grieving Youth**
- **Helpful Messages Around the Holidays (Grief Resource)**
- **Responding to Change and Loss Booklet (National Alliance for Grieving Children)**

Parents, if you would like these resources emailed directly to you, please email Anne McKinney at mckinna@gowcs.net. We will be adding more great resources each week. Click [here](#) to access the classroom or use code:6jlxidg

Hybrid and Online Learning Update and Schedule for November 9- January 22

Earlier this month, WCS Board of Education voted to offer hybrid and online instruction to students. Please see the communication I sent on October 22 [WMS Hybrid Communication - Mailed on October 22, 2020](#) to learn more about WMS' preparation for the hybrid plan. Also, included is the [WMS schedule for November 9 - January 22](#), which will be used during our remote learning plan as well as during our hybrid plan. When reviewing the schedule, please understand that students will continue to participate in asynchronous and synchronous sessions with alternating days between 1st-3rd hours and 4th-6th hours. The daily schedule of class times, support sessions, and teacher/student office hours will remain the same during our current remote learning time.

As details related to the hybrid start date, A and B assigned groups, and safety

procedures are available, they will be communicated to families.

Teacher & Student Support Session Sign Up (OPTIONAL)

Starting at 6:00 AM on Monday, students can sign up for 15 minutes of academic help on Tuesday or Thursday mornings with any of their teachers. Please use this link to schedule: <https://myconferencetime.com/williamstonms>

Attendance

Attendance during synchronous class periods is required and will be taken daily during each synchronous class session. Call the Attendance Line at 517-655-4668 (press #1) or electronically submit an absence online at <https://www.gowcs.net/domain/164>

Technology/Academic Help

- **Internet Access or Academic Support** - call Rachel Foster at the main office (517) 655-4668 to schedule a time and day to attend WMS' computer and academic lab.
- **Password Resets or Technical Support** - email: support@gowcs.net
- **Help with Google's Tools and Features** - visit the [Student/Parent Tech Tutorial Link HERE](#) (use student gowcs email account to access).
- **Help with Google Classroom or Coursework** - email the teacher.

Extracurriculars

In Person Extracurricular activities are currently suspended.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

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