



Hive Jive

Williamston Middle School

February 5, 2021

UpComing Events

Week of February 8	Kindness Spirit Days (see kindness month details below)
February 8	Hornet Heroes Deadline (see details below)
February 10 - 11	Count Day - all students present during synchronous sessions
February 15	No School, President's Day
February 17 - 18	Picture Day (scheduling details below)
March 5	NO SCHOOL, Teacher Professional Development Day
March 17	Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:00 PM
March 18	NO SCHOOL, Parent Teacher Conferences 12:30-2:30 PM

This upcoming week, we will follow the schedule below, which includes count days and the changed schedule for Friday, February 12. Student attendance during count days (February 10 and 11) will occur during all synchronous sessions. It is critical that all students attend the sessions. The State School Aid Act requires student count days each school year to determine the school's amount of state aid.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2/8	2/9	2/10-Count Day	2/11-Count Day	2/12-CHANGED
Class Hours 1st - 3rd In-Person Group Group A	Class Hours 4th - 6th In-Person Group Group A	Class Hours 1st - 3rd In-Person Group Group A	Class Hours 4th - 6th In-Person Group Group B	Class Hours 1st - 3rd In-Person Group Group B

Semester 2: [semester 2 schedule](#) and [hybrid general schedule](#)

On Monday, February 1 Williamston Board of Education approved the phase 2 learning plan with a tentative start date on March 1. This plan increases in-person learning opportunities for Williamston Middle School students. **Beginning March 1, WMS in-person students will attend afternoon/synchronous sessions five days a week.** Groups A and B will be eliminated at the start of phase 2. WMS will continue with the same daily structure (AM asynchronous work time; PM synchronous class sessions), but will transition to three (3), 60-minute classes each day. The PM synchronous session will run 11:55 AM - 3:05 PM for all students (both full time in person and remote learners). Please see the [WMS daily schedule and class calendar for semester 2 - phase 2](#), which is **scheduled to tentatively begin on March 1**. During phase 2, we will continue to follow the [WMS COVID Safety Protocols](#).

Students will continue to have the option to attend classes in-person or remotely. All students who are currently signed up for hybrid in person learning will automatically be moved to in person during phase 2. Students who are currently remote learners will remain online. If you should choose to change the current learning group for phase 2, then please contact the office at 655-4668 or email Rachel Foster at fosterr@gowcs.net.

Student of the Month - January 2021

In an effort to recognize and honor the great things that Williamston Middle School students are doing on a regular basis, WMS has a Hornet of the Month program. Adults at the Middle School are asked to nominate students each month, and by doing so, they are identifying those who are either consistently meeting or exceeding our school-wide expectations of being respectful, responsible, safe, and engaged. Many of these students display leadership qualities and serve as role models for their peers. All of these students contribute to a positive culture at Williamston Middle School, and we recognize and celebrate them for that. [View January Student of the Month Recipients HERE.](#)

February is Kindness Month at WMS

PAL students are encouraging everyone to think of ways to be intentionally kind during February. The positive focus is something we all need, and this will help us put it at the forefront. We are sharing a [linked calendar with a kind act for the day](#). Consider talking with your child about how to incorporate these intentional acts into your days ahead. We appreciate you helping us add a positive focus to our school and community! Next week, we are also having [Kindness Spirit Days](#). Students are encouraged to dress up based upon the theme related to kindness. Help show kindness spirit and participate!

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. December recipients included Mr. Brillantes, Mrs. Degan, Mrs. Ellis, Ms. Kelsey, and Ms. Rooney. Thank you for the incredible impact they have made upon our students!

Entries for our January Hornet Heroes are due February 8th and will recognize Mrs. Hill, Mr. Keith, Mr. Leslie, Mrs. Stump, and Mrs. Williams. Each student has received an email with an invitation to add a 'shout out' to any staff member that is highlighted. Thank you for encouraging your child to participate.

Picture Day

School pictures through Lifetouch will take place on February 17 (Group A) and February 18 (Group B). Students who are attending in person will get their pictures taken on their scheduled day at WMS. Students who are online ONLY can use the [picture day scheduling link](#) to schedule an appointment for pictures. Please review the [Lifetouch Picture Day Flier](#) for package options and online order information. WMS school - **Picture Day ID: EVTGXMK6.**

Online students who are opting out of school pictures, can submit a picture for the yearbook. Please see the [WMS Snap Flier](#) for more details and directions. We ask that you submit a self portrait photo no later than April 1.

Yearbook Ordering and More

- **Yearbook ordering** - Please see [yearbook flier](#) and [online yearbook ordering form](#).
 - **Attention all students** - We would love additional photos for the yearbook. We cannot guarantee that all submitted photos will be included in the yearbook, but encourage you to send them for consideration to Mr. Leslie at wmsyearbook@gowcs.net.
 - **Attention 8th Grade Students - Yearbook Toddler/Baby Pictures**
Each year there is a special 8th grade student toddler/baby picture section in the yearbook. Please see the [8th grade toddler/baby link](#) for details and February 28 deadline.
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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. New material will be uploaded weekly.

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

- **What is bullying? What to know about bullies (videos and reading material)**

We will be adding more great resources each week. [Click here to access the classroom or use code:6jlxidg](#)

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Attention 8th Grade Families - Math Science Academy (MSA)

Please see the links below for timelines and information related to MSA.

[MSA Timeline 2021-22](#) and [MSA Video - Application Process](#)

Please feel free to contact Mr. Rasmus via email (rasmusj@gowcs.net) or phone (655-2142 ext. 7720) with any questions regarding any MSA items.

ACADEMIC YEAR PROGRAMS OFFERED THROUGH MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Gifted students in grades 6 - 9 may apply for academic year programs through MSU including:

- ISHALL - English Language Arts
- CHAMPS - Mathematics
- LEAF - French
- ALL - Latin
- M.A.N.G.A. - Japanese *(3 year program)

These programs offer students the opportunity to take 4 years of high school credit courses in two years. Students must apply and meet specific criteria in order to participate in these accelerated programs. Visit <https://gifted.msu.edu/programs/academic-year-programs> for more information about their programs for the 2021-2022 school year. After reviewing the information on their website, if you would like to hear more, MSU is hosting an online informational meeting about these programs on Sunday, February 21st from 12 pm - 2 pm. To register, go to <https://gifted.msu.edu/>

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>

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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.

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.

WCS Food Distribution - distribution will be on Tuesday and Thursday. Meals will be available at the high school on the front drive from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Please visit the [meal service link](#) for details.

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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>

In-Person Drop Off/Pick UP During the School Day

If your child is in-person and needs to be dropped off or picked up during the school day, then please call the main office at 655-4668 upon arrival to verbally sign your child in or out of school.

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.
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[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

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