



Hive Jive

Williamston Middle School
February 19, 2021

UpComing Events

- February 22** **Deadline for bus transportation request for phase 2 plan**
- February 28** **8th Grade Students - Yearbook Toddler/Baby Pictures Deadline**
- March 1** **Phase 2 Plan Begins (in person 5 days a week - see 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**

WMS is preparing for the phase 2 plan that will begin on Monday, March 1, 2021. If your child is scheduled for in-person learning and does not currently have bus transportation, but will need it for phase 2, then please contact the bus garage at 655-1011 no later than Monday, February 22.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2/22	2/23	2/24	2/25	2/26
<u>Class Hours</u> 4th - 6th <u>In-Person</u> <u>Group</u> Group A	<u>Class Hours</u> 1st - 3rd <u>In-Person</u> <u>Group</u> Group A	<u>Class Hours</u> 4th - 6th <u>In-Person</u> <u>Group</u> Group B	<u>Class Hours</u> 1st - 3rd <u>In-Person</u> <u>Group</u> Group B	<u>Class Hours</u> 4th - 6th <u>In-Person</u> <u>Group</u> Group B

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

Virtual/Phone Parent-Teacher Conferences

All conferences will be held virtually (Google Meet or phone call) on **Wednesday, March 17 from 4:00 - 7:00 PM and Thursday, March 18 from 12:30 -2:30 PM.**

All conferences are scheduled online to allow teachers to prepare for each meeting and honor parent/guardian's time. The online conference scheduler was activated on **Friday, February 19 at 8:00 AM.** Schedule conferences by using: <https://myconferencetime.com/williamstonms>. One time slot per student/household, per teacher/class. Families will receive more details with how to access teachers during scheduled times.

Picture Retakes

Retakes are scheduled for **Friday, March 26 from 9:00-11:00 AM by appointment**. Schedule by using: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44ACA823A1FFC25-picture>.

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.

Girls' Math and Science Day at MSU

The Mid-Michigan chapter of Graduate Women in Science would like to invite students at Williamston Middle School to the Girls' Math and Science Day at Michigan State University on Saturday, March 20th, 2021 from 1:00-4:15 pm EST. This is a fantastic opportunity for middle school-aged girls to participate in STEM demonstrations led by some of MSU's enthusiastic and knowledgeable graduate students and researchers. The day for each participant will consist of a keynote speaker talk and four individual STEM-themed activities. Register for the event using the following link: [Girls' Math & Science Day](#) (registration is **FREE** of cost).

Be nice Thursdays

Promote the Be nice program by wearing Be nice attire and jeans on Thursdays. To learn more about the program and additional mental health resources, visit the [Be nice website](#) and the [WMS Mental Health Page](#).

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!

Phase 2 Plan (start date 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 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.

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. Also, visit the [WMS Mental Health Resources](#) and [WMS Counseling office](#) for support.

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

- **Coping Skills: 5 Senses Technique and Relaxation Technique**

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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Extracurriculars

ATHLETICS

Girls' Basketball

Open Gym - Monday and Wednesday (7th & 8th grade girls: 3:45-4:45 PM Discovery Elementary)

Boys' Basketball - see [scheduled practices and games](#)

Attention ALL Athletes

Please do not arrive at the middle school any earlier than 5 minutes before your practice time. Please drop your child off at the back entrance and please wait for them in your cars to pick them

up. The coach will dismiss your child and they will exit the building. No locker rooms will be available, so please come dressed with a change of tennis shoes.

Please bring enough water for the duration of the practice. A personal water bottle or jug is recommended and sharing is not permitted.

Masks will be required to be worn at all times. The mask must cover nose to chin.

Please answer the COVID health questions prior to your arrival and verify your temperature is 100.3 F or under.

In the past 24 hours have you experienced any of the following?

- Fever
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Shortness of Breath
- Close Contact or Cared for someone with COVID-19
- Temperature above 100.3 F
- * Please do not send children if the answer is yes to any of these questions. Consult with your health care provider.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

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