



# The Whittier HOWLER

12/10/2020

**Whittier International Elementary**  
315 W. 26th St. Minneapolis, MN 55404

***THE BEST SOURCE OF THE MOST UPDATED WHITTIER INFO IS ON OUR WEBSITE:***

<http://whittier.mpls.k12.mn.us>

**No school on:**

**Monday, December 21 – Friday, January 1**

**Last day of school before Winter Break is Friday, December 18, 2020**

**School resumes on Monday, January 4, 2021**

## **Note for High 5 Families**

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Join Ms. Kristin for an informal question and answer meeting on Registering for Kindergarten. If you are confused or need assistance in registering your child, click on this Google Meet link -

<https://meet.google.com/vdv-qbyy-ahp>

When: Friday, December 11

Time: 12:00-1:00

Somali and Spanish interpreters will be on the meeting and assisting with translations.

You may also join in a link posted in Seesaw.

## Note from Principal Lamberty

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Good Afternoon Whittier Families - This is Principal Lamberty reaching out and checking in.

Families have been receiving information from our district regarding their child's placement for next school year. Please know that Whittier Staff are here to answer any questions you may have. Feel free to call, stop by Whittier Door 15 or join me at [Coffee with the Principal](#) to chat about your options or the process of requesting a school for next year. Remember you can find the link for Coffee with the Principal on our school website.

Whittier Staff are reaching out to families who live in our new attendance area, connecting and making sure they know just how awesome Whittier International is. We will be doing some door knocking across our neighborhood, and if you would like to join the effort to recruit new families and build broader relationships across our community, please reach out to me, and we can put you to work!

We continue to receive supplies for distance learning, please check in with your child's teacher to see if there are any supplies specifically for your child. Principal Delau and I are at Door 15 Monday-Friday, from 8 am- 3 pm for tech support and supply pick up. If you need help with supply pick up, please let your child's teacher know.

Finally, thank you so much for all you are doing to support your child during this difficult time, we see you, and appreciate you!

Be well, be kind to yourself and others, and don't forget to take time to just BE

Laurie Lamberty, Ed.S.  
Principal, Whittier International Elementary  
315 West 26th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55404  
[Laurie.Lamberty@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:Laurie.Lamberty@mpls.k12.mn.us)

## (Virtual) Coffee with the Principal

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### WHITTIER COFFEE WITH THE PRINCIPAL – LAURIE LAMBERTY

Principal Lamberty is inviting you, parents, to a scheduled Zoom meeting for virtual Coffee with the Principal. **Fridays, 10:30 – 11:00 AM**, virtual, of course! Join the Zoom Meeting by clicking on the link below – this information is also on our website:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89855515281?pwd=aWQzR21DM045SEdJc1ZrVTZuTFRrZz09&from=msoft>

Meeting ID: 898 5551 5281

Passcode: 3ktrzt

## Whittier “Bell Time” Changes

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At their November 10 meeting, MPS Board of Education approved the [new bell time schedule](#) for the 2021-22 school year.

Click here for a [listing of the new Bell Times](#) that will be implemented for the 2021-22 school year.

**WHITTIER'S CURRENT BELL TIMES FOR SY 2020-2021 ARE 9:40 AM - 4:10 PM.**

**WHITTIER'S NEW BELL TIMES FOR SY 2021-2022 ARE 9:10 AM - 3:40 PM.**

# Whittier School Request Season Virtual Open Houses

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You have all received a letter and a robocall from the District informing you of the changes going into effect for the 2021-2022 school year, based on your address as it appears in our records.

If you were unable to attend the LIVE Virtual School Request Kick-off on Saturday, December 5, you can watch the [recorded program here](#). To view the program in another language, click on one of these links: [Hmong/Hmoob](#), [Somali/Soomaali](#), and [Spanish/Español](#).

If you are interested in [requesting a school](#) for your child other than the school that you have been assigned for the 2021-2022 school year, you can submit a school request beginning

December 5, 2020. You will have the best chance of placement at your first requested school if the request is received by the cut-off date, February 7, 2021. Requests received by this date will be placed randomly within priority levels according to request preferences, attendance areas, integration goals and sibling preference.

This [Community School Lookup Map for the 2021-2022 School Year](#) is also helpful to see your community school for the coming year based on your address. This website provides information on the community school boundaries in the CDD, which are effective for the 2021-22 school year. In addition to community schools, a diverse set of [magnet school options](#) will be available, once you put in your address. These magnets will have citywide transportation and will require an application to a lottery for placement.

Whittier will be holding three Virtual Open Houses in the month of January. We hope you will be able to attend one of them. The links to the virtual Zoom meetings will be posted on our website on the day of each event.

Monday, January 11 from 2:30 – 3:30 PM

Friday, January 22 from 9:30 – 10:30 AM

Wednesday, January 27 from 6:00 – 7:00 PM

For further information about Whittier, please join us for [Coffee with the Principal](#).

**Also please call Student Placement Services at 612-668-1840 with any questions.** They can help you in your preferred language and can very knowledgeably guide you through this school request process.

## Community Ed Corner

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**Community Education**

**Community Ed. virtual offerings will be unveiled right after winter break, with classes starting up the week of January 19, 2021.**

### Academic STEM After School Opportunities for students

**Registration is now open for the January through April Extended Learning GEMS-GISE STEM Academy.** Families can select from a variety of standards based hands-on classes available to current K-8 MPS students. (Coding, Robotics, Biomedical, KoolFit-2four7, Invention Project and more!) Classes will be delivered live through distance-learning and begin on Monday, January 11th. All students will receive a STEM Academy Kit for each course to ensure an opportunity for engaging interactive learning experiences. Each course will be for two one-hour sessions per week. Students can take up to two different STEM Academy courses.

**For more information on available courses and to register:**

[https://alc.mpls.k12.mn.us/g\\_g\\_s\\_after\\_school\\_program\\_2](https://alc.mpls.k12.mn.us/g_g_s_after_school_program_2)

**If you have questions, please email us at:** [MPS.Gemsgise@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:MPS.Gemsgise@mpls.k12.mn.us)

As always, give us a holler if you have any questions!

Jeff "Nacho" Carlson, Community Education Coordinator, Whittier International Elementary  
[Jcarl001@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:Jcarl001@mpls.k12.mn.us) / 612-205-8828

## School Supplies & Tech Support

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If you need tech support or to pick up supplies for your student(s) **our hours on Friday, December 11 are 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM.**

**Hours for the week of December 14 are Monday from 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM, and Tuesday through Friday from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM, or later by appointment.**

**If you need tech support and cannot make it in when we are open, you can call the tech help desk. Their number is: 612-668-0088 or the [MPS Tech Support Website](#) is also very helpful.**

### Supplies/materials available at Whittier:

<b>Kinder:</b>	Phonics, Science Kits, White Boards, Reading Materials, and English Learner (EL) Materials
<b>1st Grade:</b>	All new items will be with student folders at Door 8 (Parking Garage Door)
<b>2nd Grade:</b>	New reading materials
<b>3rd Grade:</b>	Math Unit 3, Reading Units 4-6, Math Manipulatives
<b>4th Grade:</b>	Science Kit, Math Units 2-3 plus new Math Manipulatives
<b>5th Grade:</b>	Science Kit, Math Units 2, Math Folder, new Math Manipulatives, white boards
<b>All Grades:</b>	We still have a few art kits yet if your child hasn't picked this up. <b>Gym bags are due to arrive soooooooooon....</b>

## Free School Meal Boxes for All Youth

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All families are invited to pick up free school meal boxes for their children. School meal boxes contain five breakfasts and five lunches and meet Minneapolis Public Schools Culinary & Wellness Services' (MPS CWS) high standards for nutrition and quality ingredients. In every box, children will find school favorites, whole grains, fresh fruits, and vegetables. Milk is offered on the side, up to ten milk cartons per box.

- All youth 18 & under can participate.
- Youth do not need to be enrolled in MPS.
- Youth, parents, or siblings can pick up one box per child, per week.
- Pick up at any of the 29 school **sites** - no registration required.
- All sites are open Monday through Friday, most from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and a few have extended hours of 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (**Whittier is available until 5 p.m.**)

**WHITTIER FOOD PICKUP: 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday – Friday at Door #8 – THAT'S THE GARAGE DOOR.** Please knock (don't buzz) and someone will be out to help you. You will need to wear a mask.

**\*\*IF SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED (December 21 – January 1) THERE IS NO FOOD PICKUP AVAILABLE\*\***

Please follow this link for more information about [School Meal Box Pickup](#).

## Educational Benefits – School Lunch Forms

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The state of Minnesota deadline for submitting your family's Educational Benefits Form is



**December 15.** We still have some families who have not yet submitted their form, and our office staff is reaching out to help them complete it. If you get a call from Ms. LaShawn, Mr. Jesus, Mr. Warsame or Mr. Omer, please pick up. It only takes a few minutes. These forms are critical for Whittier, as they bring in federal funding that pays for our Family Liaison position, and staff who provide both enrichment and academic supports to all of our students. Losing this funding would mean losing some of those supports, or increased classes sizes. **Please help us keep all of the programs that make Whittier the amazing school it is.**

The Application for Educational Benefits (formerly known as Free and Reduced Lunch) can be completed at [SchoolCafé.com](https://www.schoolcafe.com), or for complete step by step directions visit the [MPS Application for Educational Benefits website](#).

**If you have any questions about this application, reach out to La Shawn**

**Hankton** at [lashawn.hankton@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:lashawn.hankton@mpls.k12.mn.us) or call her at 612-668-4176 and she will talk you through the process.

La Shawn is also available at <https://meet.google.com/lookup/whelp> at these times, should you need in-person, virtual help:

- Monday - Friday 1:45 PM – 2:30 PM
- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10:05 AM – 11:35 AM
- Wednesday, Friday 11:05 AM – 11:35 AM
- Monday - Friday 2:30 PM – 3:15 PM

## Whittier Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

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Whittier International  
Elementary School  
**PTA**



The Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) at Whittier International Elementary is the primary method for supporting and enabling parent/caregiver involvement in our school. Our PTA's mission is to be:

- A powerful voice for all children
- A relevant resource for all families and communities
- A strong advocate for the education and well-being of

every child

- An enabler for enhancing the relationship between home and school

Whittier PTA support allows us to provide MacPhail music lessons, requested supplies for teachers and students (we bought apps and online tools for teachers last spring), and staff appreciation gifts.

**Connect to the PTA:**

- Join the [Whittier International School Community](#) group on Facebook
- Follow the [Whittier PTA Facebook page](#)
- Become a PTA [member](#)
- Email the PTA if you have questions: [Whittier.PTA.mpls@gmail.com](mailto:Whittier.PTA.mpls@gmail.com)

Everyone is welcome! If you want to support the PTA, you can [become a PTA member here!](#) Regardless of ability to pay, all parents, caregivers, teachers, and staff are welcome and encouraged to participate in the PTA.

## Music with Ms. Bennett

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**Music assignments are all hosted on the Music Website.** Links for students to access the lessons are posted in Seesaw each week. Exit forms are located at the end of each lesson on the Music Site. Seesaw Activities assigned each week for students in grades 2-5 who are missing work. Students have until the end of Thursday of the following week to complete the previous week's form.

**Students are tracked for attendance in class, completing exit forms and any other work that they are asked to complete during class.**

Email Ms. Bennett if you want to know if your child is getting their work completed or if you need help.

**4th & 5th Graders** - Soundtrap is an amazing music creation tool. It is imperative that you complete the project each week. Read the directions & requirements and watch the how-to video for each project before you start. Be sure to get help during class meets or email me to set up an alternative time. If you fall behind, you will not know how to do the future projects.

**The Music Website is accessible only to MPS accounts. Your child's MPS email and password need to be entered into the browser to access the site.** There are links to the Music site in the Music Seesaw Class & Music Clever pages. Check with your teacher or the Whittier Office to find help.

The best way to communicate with Ms. Bennett is by email: [kbennett@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:kbennett@mpls.k12.mn.us)

## Physical Education (PE/Gym) with Ms. Bryand

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**Changes for K-2 classes started November 9<sup>th</sup>:** I will be posting assignments in Seesaw. Each class has their own PE page and they can find the assignments by clicking the activity button. Follow the instructions for the assignments and send in one response for each assignment. **NO MORE EXIT FORMS ON MY WEBSITE FOR K-2.** The response could be a drawing, picture, video or type a message.

**Grade 3-5 assignments are still posted on the specialists Website:**

<https://sites.google.com/mpls.k12.mn.us/whittierspecialists/home>

Students can get to this site several ways. There are links on Seesaw & Clever pages and the Whittier website. <https://whittier.mpls.k12.mn.us>, click specialists. **Exit forms** are a big part of the students' grades. Be sure that your child is successfully submitting the exit form each week. If you want to know if your child is getting them completed email me for an update.

If you are having any problems with your devices you can get technical support by bringing your device to Whittier at door 15, circle drive at 26th and Grand Ave or call 612-668-0088

The best way to communicate with Ms. B is email: [nancy.bryand@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:nancy.bryand@mpls.k12.mn.us)

## Beep! Beep! Beep!

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Do you hear that beeping sound? Could be you need to change the batteries in your smoke alarm. Take it down from the wall and see what kind of batteries it takes – AA? 9V? Check it out, replace the batteries, and the beeping will stop, and you and your family will be safe.

# Whittier Health Office

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## HELLO WOLVES! Just want you to know...

Minnesota Department of Health is offering **free home Covid-19 saliva testing kits**.

Link to MDH:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/athome.html>

Link to Vault Health: <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/state-of-minnesota/>

Click here to see [Videos for COVID-19 Response](#)

And check out Whittier's website for information on [COVID-19 testing and flu shots](#).

## COVID-19 Resources

### Rent assistance

Hennepin County just announced that **December 11 at 4:00 pm** is the deadline to apply for COVID Emergency Rent/Mortgage Assistance.

**More information about eligibility and the application can be found here:** [Hennepin County COVID Emergency Housing Assistance](#)

As COVID-19 puts additional strain on families and individuals, there are resources available to help.

### State Housing Assistance Program

Minnesota's COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program has opened to cover housing expenses such as rent, mortgage, utilities or other housing-related costs. This program will help keep folks in their homes and maintain housing stability for eligible renters and homeowners in communities across the state. People in Minnesota interested in applying for assistance can call the **Greater Twin Cities United Way's** 211 Resource Helpline at 651-291-0211, text "MNRENT" or "MNHOME" to 898-211, or [apply online here](#). The 211 Helpline has dedicated multilingual staff to answer questions about the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. For questions regarding the application process, review [COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program frequently asked questions](#).

### Foreclosure Prevention Resources

The COVID-19 crisis continues to pose significant challenges for many in our community. If you or someone you know is struggling to meet your mortgage obligations, free assistance is available through the Minnesota Homeownership Center. A network of advisors can help you understand how to prevent foreclosure and connect you with resources to help during this challenging time. [Learn more and find an advisor here](#).

### Utility Bill Payment Options

The state's Energy Assistance Program offers eligible residents help covering energy expenses, so they don't have to choose. This assistance can be used to cover energy bills, or to repair or replace old or malfunctioning furnaces. [Get more information and apply here](#).

In addition, both of our local utility providers -- Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy -- have suspended shutoffs for non-payment until further notice. In addition, both companies are working with customers to provide help where possible. Arrange a payment plan by contacting Xcel Energy at 800-895-4999 and/or CenterPoint Energy at 800-245-2377.

It seems high school students in MN are now allowed to retroactively apply for the unemployment+\$600 that everyone else was eligible for in March.

<https://www.kare11.com/amp/article/news/local/mn-court-of-appeals-reverses-ruling-to-allow-qualified-high-school-students-to-receive-pandemic-unemployment-assistance/89-49a89778-5290-444b-93d7-47dc23d18f98>

## Help for Older Adults

The Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging put together a list of community-based services and resources for older adults and their caregivers to support daily living needs and safety at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. You can find more information here, or if you need additional assistance, you can call the Senior LinkAge Line – a free statewide help line for seniors and caregivers – at 1-800-333-2433. Spanish/English COVID-19 Hotline Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment: Call 651-304-6145 for assistance in Spanish with questions or concerns about where to get tested, what to do while you wait for results, and how to manage if you're test is positive.

**Hennepin County Services Operator 612 348 3000** (do not **press** anything, stay on the line)  
Say “**Covid-19 response team need**”.

The Human service workers are ready to help and deliver food etc.

**Long term case management services**, Hennepin Front Door Program 612 348 4111

Option#1, option “0”. For mental health services and case management services

**Emergency Rent Assistance / Eviction / Utilities** 612- 596- 4900

**Medical Insurance Lapse or Insurance Application** 612- 596 -1300 9am-3pm

Please let us know (include your contact information if you want to be contacted) if you have questions or if we can provide additional information or be of help.

Sincerely,

AKPENE ASEMPA, RN, PHN, LSN

Phone: 612-692-0062

Email: [Akpene.Asempa@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:Akpene.Asempa@mpls.k12.mn.us)

PAT ARNOLD, HSA

Phone: 612-668-4186

Email: [Patricia.Arnold@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:Patricia.Arnold@mpls.k12.mn.us)

Please continue reading below for information on upcoming drive-through flu shot clinics.



# DRIVE-THRU FLU SHOT CLINICS



Drive-thru flu vaccination provides you and your family members – ages six months and older – a safe and convenient way to get a flu shot this season. **All participants will remain in their vehicle and are required to wear a mask.**

## **CLINIC & SPECIALTY CENTER**

715 South 8th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Saturday, December 5  
10 am - 2 pm

Saturday, December 12  
10 am - 2 pm

*\*Please note there may be a wait to make sure all participants are given time to complete their registration forms and given a flu shot safely.*

[www.hennepinhealthcare.org/publicfluclinics](http://www.hennepinhealthcare.org/publicfluclinics)