



The Whittier HOWLER

12/17/2020

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

Tech support during Winter Break



During winter break, tech support will be available Monday-Wednesday (Dec. 21-23 and 28-30) from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. If your child is having problems with their Chromebook or iPad during this time, please call the IT Service Desk at 612.668.0088.

Attention Whittier Families — Since we have moved into a new schedule with a **flexible learning day on Fridays**, we have had to adjust the specialist schedule. Please go to the Whittier website to see your child's new specialist schedule. These changes to the specialist schedule went into effect this week.

Enjoy your Winter Break! See you next year!



Note from Principal Lamberty

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

Today's call comes to you as we approach our winter break, and we look to the days getting longer and the nights getting shorter! I know that this winter season, and any holidays you may celebrate, are different this year. At Whittier, we always worry about our students and families over the long two-week break. We know the routines of school, time and attention from your teacher and seeing your friends provides reassurance and comfort. This year's winter break may provide new challenges for families, and I want to share a few tips.

If you have traditions that your family looks forward to during this time, be creative in how you can maintain some of those traditions, while staying safe and physically distanced. My daughters and I Zoomed to decorate cookies this year instead of being together in one space; same delicious cookies and laughs, just from a distance.

Get outside as much as you can; even just a walk around the block can help our moods and give us a little space when the house may be feeling crowded.

For me, the holidays bring an excess of treats, and when I manage moderation, I just feel better! I try and sneak in some extra fruits and veggies, and an extra glass of water with each treat.

During School Request season, if you have any questions about process, or choices you may have to make, please do not hesitate to reach out. Join me at [Coffee with the Principal](#) on Fridays at 10:30 to chat with other families, get your questions answered, or simply to connect. Also check out our school webpage for updates on Virtual Open Houses, Self-Guided tours of Whittier, and videos of our staff and students in action as IB Learners and Leaders.

Take good care over the break, wishing you wellness and joy for you and yours.

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

(Virtual) Coffee with the Principal



WHITTIER COFFEE WITH THE PRINCIPAL – LAURIE LAMBERTY

Join us on Friday, December 18. We will pause for Winter Break and resume on Friday, January 8.

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=sft>

Meeting ID: 898 5551 5281

Passcode: 3ktrzt

Holiday Meal Boxes

Hey, parents, caregivers, & other adults!

We have a meal box for you—just in time for the holidays. For two weeks in a row, you can get a **free Holiday Meal Box for Adults** when you pick up the free meal boxes for children.

	M	T	W	T	F
DEC	21 OPEN	22 OPEN	23 CLOSED	24 CLOSED	25 CLOSED
DEC/JAN	28 CLOSED	29 OPEN	30 OPEN	31 CLOSED	1 CLOSED
JAN	4 CLOSED	5 OPEN	6 OPEN	7 OPEN	8 OPEN

- Pick-up on **December 21** or **22** and **December 29** or **30**, normal hours. We will resume our regular schedule on January 5, 2021.
- First Come, First Served. Holiday Meal Boxes for Adults will be at all 27 sites. There will be no super snack boxes these two weeks.
- The Holiday Meal Box feeds two adults for about a week or more adults at a single meal. One Holiday Meal Box per household.



Sliced Turkey & Gravy (5 lb.)
Green Beans (24 oz.)
Apples (2 lb.)
10" Pumpkin Pie

Mashed Potatoes (4 lb.)
Baby Carrots (2 lb.)
Dinner Rolls (24)
Foil Pans



cws.mpls.k12.mn.us/holiday_meal_box



Whittier Neighborhood Emergency Monetary Relief Application

[The second round of this relief opportunity](#) is now open to all first-time applicants. Funds are limited and will be distributed to approved applicants on a first-come, first-served basis.

This fund is intended to assist Whittier neighborhood residents who are experiencing a financial emergency as a result of income loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic or the recent uprising following the murder of George Floyd. Priority will be given to low-income, cost-burdened applicants identifying as Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Color (BIPOC); funds will be awarded on a sliding scale from \$100--\$500 per applicant/household. Community members are welcome and encouraged to apply no matter their citizenship or documentation status.

Disbursement of funds will be made on a first come, first served basis to eligible applicants until allotted emergency funds are depleted. We cannot guarantee that your payment will be held for you if we do not receive a response to our follow-up communications. At this time, applicants receiving funds may not apply again.

Please click on the above link for the application form and more information.

Whittier School Request Season Virtual Open Houses

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.

School Supplies & Tech Support



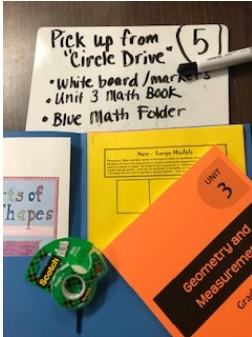
If you need tech support or to pick up supplies for your student(s) **our hours on Friday, December 18 are 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM.**

Hours for the week of January 4 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:

- Kinder:** Phonics, Science Kits, White Boards, Reading Materials, Counters, and English Learner (EL) Materials
- 1st Grade:** All new items will be with student folders at Door 8 (Parking Garage Door)
- 2nd Grade:** flash cards, counters, weather packet and new reading materials
- 3rd Grade:** Math Unit 3, Reading Units 4-6, Math Manipulatives
- 4th Grade:** Science Kit, Math Units 2-3 plus new Math Manipulatives
- 5th Grade:** White board and markers (if you haven't already received them), Blue math folder, Unit 3 Geometry & Measurement Math Book (orange)



All Grades: We still have a few art kits yet if your child hasn't picked this up. **Gym bags are due to arrive soooooooon....**

IB Ambassadors



Service to our Community – Eco/Art and Design/Kindness

Calling all 4th and 5th grade Whittier Wolves who are interested in serving as an IB Ambassador in 2021!

On Friday, December 18th, 4th and 5th grade students are invited to join in a meeting focused on the collaboration of IB Ambassadors in 2021. The goal of this initial meeting is for students to gather information about IB Ambassadors, engage in thinking and discussion and to provide input while we plan for this experience. Interested students must complete an e-application that will be shared at the meeting. We look forward to gathering these minds in the New Year!

Ms. Tasha, Ms. Dominguez, Mr. Nacho, Ms. Jody

Watercourse Counseling Center



Navigating life's
journeys together

We at the Watercourse Counseling Center offer free individual support and resource information through our call-lines. This can be available for single referral requests or support, or as an ongoing opportunity to talk with one of our staff during the COVID crisis.

- Somali language speakers: 612-767-8659
- Spanish language speakers: 612-767-4158
- English language speakers: 612-767-8661

In addition, we offer parent support groups that are also free and available to anyone in the community--parents, teachers, community members. These are drop-in virtual groups and can address a wide range of topics from parent support for distance learning to grief and loss issues.

SOMALI:

The weekly Somali Parent Support Group meeting will meet on Tuesdays from 4-5pm, starting on 11/17.

Here's the link to join the meeting: <https://meet.google.com/pav-tgbh-apu>.

SPANISH:

Grupo de Padres

Wednesdays starting December 9th at 9:00pm.

Text/call Jessica at 612-704-8602 for link.

ENGLISH:

Tuesdays at Noon

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/aju-ygkd-oii>

Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 513-464-9533 and enter this PIN: 765 052 816#

To view more phone numbers, click this link: <https://tel.meet/aju-ygkd-oii?hs=5>

Watercourse Counseling Center

Phone: 612-822-8227

Fax: 612-825-4204

www.watercoursecounseling.org

Community Ed Corner



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

If you have questions, please email us at: 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 / 612-205-8828

Minneapolis Kids Childcare for 2021-2022

[Minneapolis Kids](#) is the childcare program provided through Community Education to families on a sliding-fee scale. Minneapolis Kids will maintain its level of service for the 2021-22 school year. **All**



Community Education

SCHOOL AGE CARE

Minneapolis Kids

current Minneapolis Kids sites will remain active with the exception of Justice Page, which is being relocated to Keewaydin. For a majority of schools without Minneapolis Kids, we are also looking at expanding our [Youth Enrichment opportunities](#).

We have also made necessary changes to ensure Minneapolis Kids remains accessible during times that best meet the needs of Minneapolis families. [This table has more information](#).

Please note that right now due to COVID-19, Minneapolis Kids must prioritize MPS students of essential workers as declared by Governor Walz's executive order.

Whittier Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

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

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.

Educational Benefits – School Lunch Forms

The state of Minnesota deadline for submitting your family's Educational Benefits Form has been extended to January 4. 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](#), 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 or call her at 612-668-4176 and she will talk you through the process.

Music with Ms. Bennett



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

Physical Education (PE/Gym) with Ms. Bryand



K-2 classes: 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

Whittier "Bell Time" Changes



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 Health Office

HELLO WOLVES! Just want you to know...



Free COVID-19 Testing: No ID or insurance is required. Test results should be available within a day or two of your test. Testing is encouraged and available to everyone, whether or not you have symptoms. [Find additional details on the City's COVID-19 testing efforts here.](#) To see more COVID-19 testing opportunities, check [Hennepin County's upcoming community testing events](#) and [the state's list of its upcoming testing events](#). In addition, [this state directory](#) can help you find a testing location near you.

At-Home Saliva Testing

The state is offering [free at-home COVID-19 saliva tests](#). You do not need to have symptoms in order to request a test, which must be taken during a video chat with a supervisor who makes sure the test is done properly. You then send the test to a lab which will test your saliva and email your results one to two days after they receive the sample. The saliva test is just as accurate as the nasal swab test and is available at no cost for every Minnesotan, and insurance is not required. [Request your at-home COVID-19 test here.](#)

In-Person Saliva Testing

Free saliva testing is now available at a couple of locations that may be convenient for Ward 11 residents:

- The Minneapolis Convention Center (1301 2nd Ave S; enter on the west side of the building off 1st Avenue). Testing is available daily, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends. Free parking is available and marked in nearby surface lots and parking ramps.
- Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport, Terminal 1 (4300 Glumack Dr, signs will guide you from the inbound roadway to the clinic location itself, located in the lobby area on Level 2 of the Blue Ramp). Testing is available daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome for events but folks are encouraged to [make an appointment to prevent crowding and long lines](#). Parking validation is available.
- Columbia Golf Course (3300 Central Ave NE) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 20, and Dec. 21. [Get more information here.](#)
- Sabathani Community Center (310 E 38th St) from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 19. [Get more information here.](#) Remember to quarantine until you've received your test results and isolate if you test positive. Stay healthy and safe. We'll see you in 2021!

Band Together Against the Flu



No matter who you are or what your style is, it's more important than ever this year to band together against the flu with a flu shot.

One arm at a time. One bandage at a time. Let's band together to control this year's flu - for all of us. [Find a flu shot near you.](#)

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,
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