



The Whittier Weekly

12/03/2020

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>

Click here for a reminder that [WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER!](#)



Whittier Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

You Are Invited to the PTA Meeting

Monday, December 7, 7 PM - 8 PM

Google Meet link: <http://meet.google.com/ywz-umzt-vzm>

Whittier International
Elementary School
PTA



Other ways to 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.

Note from Principal Lamberty

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

Families received notification from our District this week regarding what school they are assigned to for the 2021-2022 school year. I know you may have many questions. I encourage you to join me at Coffee with the Principal tomorrow morning to hear any updates I may have from today's Principal Meeting or attend the District Wide School Request Kick-Off on Saturday. Both events are virtual, and you can find the links to each on our School Website.

As Minneapolis Public Schools moves to implement an Asynchronous Learning day, Whittier has surveyed families and staff, and gathered information from teachers regarding learning patterns, attendance patterns, and how they have been sequencing their lessons over the course of the week. Based on all we discussed, we have decided that Whittier's Asynchronous Learning day will occur on Fridays. Your child's teacher will reach out to you directly so that you know what to expect for these days.

I want to thank you all for your continued support, patience and flexibility as we continue to stay strong as a community during these challenging times. Your generosity of spirit, willingness to reach out and help others, and your resilience are both inspiring and humbling. Please know that if you need anything, we are just a phone call away.

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

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.

Please plan on attending the Virtual School Request Kick-off on Saturday, December 5 from 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM. On Saturday, the link will be posted here: <https://mpls.k12.mn.us/request-kickoff.html>

Please [visit our updated School Request Website](#) beginning December 5, when the request season begins, to learn more about your child's school.

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.

Whittier will be holding three Virtual School Request 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 and other MPS schools, see the links below for Coffees with the Principals, where you are invited to attend.

(Virtual) Coffee with MPS Principals

School Request Season is here for the coming school year. Please reach out to Whittier's Principal and to these other MPS schools if you have questions about next year's changes.



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=aWQzR2lDM045SEdJc1ZrVTZuTFRrZz09&from=sft>

Meeting ID: 898 5551 5281

Passcode: 3ktrzt

BURROUGHS COFFEE WITH THE PRINCIPAL – ANA BARTL

Join Burroughs Principal Ana Bartl on **Friday, December 4 from 9:30-10:30 am** for coffee and conversation. Please use the Zoom invite below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9971677936?pwd=MWgyb082TkZSa1dseWVNRUdDQUljdz09>

LYNDALE COFFEE WITH THE PRINCIPAL – MEGHAN O'CONNOR

Please join Meghan O'Connor, principal of Lyndale Elementary, for questions and answers about Lyndale School on **Tuesday, December 8th from 3-4pm**.

Google Meets: <https://meet.google.com/nqu-iysu-gmu>

CLARA BARTON COFFEE WITH THE PRINCIPAL – DIANE MANLEY BAGLEY

Clara Barton Coffee with Principal Diane Manley Bagley
We welcome all for questions and conversations!

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 from 9:30-10:30am

<https://zoom.us/j/95161010023?pwd=RElrOHA5cTEzeHJBOHBKOVB1SVBpdz09>

Meeting ID: 951 6101 0023

Passcode: 82zfwr

Note from Ms. Freddy – Media Center

The [Whittier Media page](#) is designed and evolving to help you and your student. I am putting tutorials on how to use and install the most common applications students will need for Distance Learning. There is information for both iPad and Chromebooks. It has video tutorials in English, Soomaali and Español. The second page contains educational sites that your student might like to use to further learning. There are educational games, coding, and book sites to name a few.

School Supplies & Tech Support



If you need tech support or to pick up supplies for your student(s) **our hours on Friday, December 4 are 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM, or later by appointment.**

Hours for the week of December 7 are Monday from 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM, and Tuesday through Friday from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

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, and Reading Materials
1st Grade:	All new items will be with student folders at Door 8 (Parking Garage Door)
2nd Grade:	Math and Science Kits
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:	Science Kit, Math Units 2, Math Folder plus new Math Manipulatives
All Grades:	We still have a few art kits yet if your child hasn't picked this up. Gym bags are due to arrive soooooooooon....

Social Work Corner

Difficulty Paying Rent? You may be eligible for assistance through [Hennepin County COVID Emergency Housing Assistance](#).

You may qualify for money to help cover your housing costs if you:

- Live in Hennepin County
- Have current household income at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Guideline (about \$65,160 for a family of three)
- Lost income due to COVID-19
- Have past due housing costs or can't afford your housing costs this month
- Are not currently receiving Section 8 or other rental assistance

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

If you do not have internet access or cannot complete the form in English call 612-302-3160.

Please contact your social worker (see below) if you have any questions or would like assistance applying.

PreK-2nd Grades: Laura Sanchez Garcia #612-234-7736

3-5th Grade and Federal Setting 3: Tasha Novotny #612-293-5505

Educational Benefits – School Lunch Forms

The state of Minnesota deadline for submitting your family's Educational Benefits Form is **coming fast**. We still have around 150 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 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

Free School Meal Boxes for All Youth



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](#).

Community Ed Corner – Art Buddies Pen Pals Update



Community Education

All Art Buddies Pen Pals should have received letters by now! You'll see the pre-stamped return postcards for your student to send a letter back to their pen pal. If you haven't received your package yet, let Mr. Nacho know. We will figure it out!

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

Music with Ms. Bennett



Exit forms are a big part of students' grades. Be sure that your child is successfully submitting the exit form found at the bottom of the Assignment page each week. Students have until the end of Thursday of the following week to complete the previous week's form. Email Ms. Bennett if you want to know if your child is getting them completed or if you need help submitting them.

There are Seesaw Activities assigned each week for students in **grades 2-5** who are missing work.

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



Changes for K-2 classes started November 9th: 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.

As a result of the Comprehensive District Design, two overarching goals were identified for a new bell time schedule to support community and magnet schools.

- Increasing equitable access to after school programs which MPS' Accountability, Research and Equity division has stated has a positive impact on achievement and on a student's sense of belonging, with a specific focus of moving middle schools off the last tier, i.e. 9:30 start time
- Identifying additional resources, i.e. reducing transportation expense, that could be redirected and invested in supporting equity and academic achievement.

MPS' Board of Education is confident that the new bell time schedule will meet these goals.

Next Steps

MPS families and staff will be notified of the 2021-22 school year bell time changes and implementation planning will begin. Support and communication will be provided to families during the school request season.

Community Education, Extended Learning and Minneapolis Kids will review their programming, locations, schedules and times to provide equitable access and support to MPS students and families.

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.

Beep! Beep! Beep!



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



HELLO WOLVES! Just want you to know...

If You Gathered for Thanksgiving, Get Tested Today

State public health officials are urging anyone who gathered with folks outside their household over Thanksgiving to get tested for COVID-19 this week. You should get tested if you have symptoms whether or not you saw others on the holiday. There are many free testing options available, no insurance required. Remember to quarantine until you've received your test results and isolate if you test positive.

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

PATARNOLD,HSA

Phone: 612-668-4186

Email: 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