November 2026

www.wssd115.org

WHITESIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT #115

618-239-0000

MR. MARK HEURING, SUPERINTENDENT

WHITESIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MR. NATHAN RAKERS, PRINCIPAL

MRS. KIM BOSSLER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

WHITESIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

MRS. MONICA LAURENT, PRINCIPAL

MR. JAIME COTTO, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2 NJHS Meeting

3 Treats for Troops Collection Begins

4 Elementary School Hat Day
Early Dismissal (MS 1:45 PM, ES 2:00 PM)

5 Elementary and Middle School Picture Retakes
Treats for Troops Final Collection
Math Team Meeting

7 All District Jazz Band (selected students)

9 PTC Monthly Meeting 6:00 PM

10 MS Veteran's Day Breakfast *RSVP ONLY*
Concert Band Performance (during school)
Band Butter Braid Fundraiser Ends
Elementary Parade and Glee Club Performance
PTC Dine and Donate - Joe's Pizza & Pasta

11 No School - Veterans Day
PTC Dine and Donate - Joe's Pizza & Pasta

12 Dine and Donate - Joe's Pizza & Pasta

15 PTC Spirit Wear Store Opens

16 NJHS Meeting

18 Early Dismissal (MS 1:45 PM, ES 2:00 PM)
Booster Club Meeting - 6:00PM

19 Math Team Meeting

21 All District Band (selected students)

23 Glee Club Shirt Order Due

25 No School - Thanksgiving Break

26 No School - Thanksgiving Break

27 No School - Thanksgiving Break
Belleville Santa Parade - Marching Band

30 Final Day PTC Spirit Wear

NO SCHOOL



- NOVEMBER 11
- NOVEMBER 25
- NOVEMBER 26
- NOVEMBER 27

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the following elementary students who were selected by their teachers for showing Gratitude!

Maliya Liddell
Auri Mabe
Maddison Maloney
Serinity Moore
Delilah Parks
Zackari Reed
Ja'Mirriah Robinson
Jamie Simmons Jr.
Zhori Tibbs
Lillianna Wright
Kyla Young-Burnett

Congratulations to the following middle school students who were selected by their teachers!

Jayden Calderon
Kha'rynn Collier
Jamani Derisca
Carter Hill
Taliyah Ratcliff
Braylon Williams
Aidan Woods



STEAM CARNIVAL

Thursday, February 11, 2027
6:00 - 7:30 PM
Elementary School Gym

WHITESIDE BAND

Our annual **Butter Braid Fundraiser** will end on November 10. The money from this fundraiser goes to the Band Parents Association and helps us with instrument and music needs. Thank you in advance for helping make this event successful.

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to the ILMEA All District Band: Lawrence Clark, Pharaoh Clay, Jillian Costello, Ava Houston, Zoe Howse, Bella Johnson, Elijah Leonard, Hannah Lettau, and Leon McClure

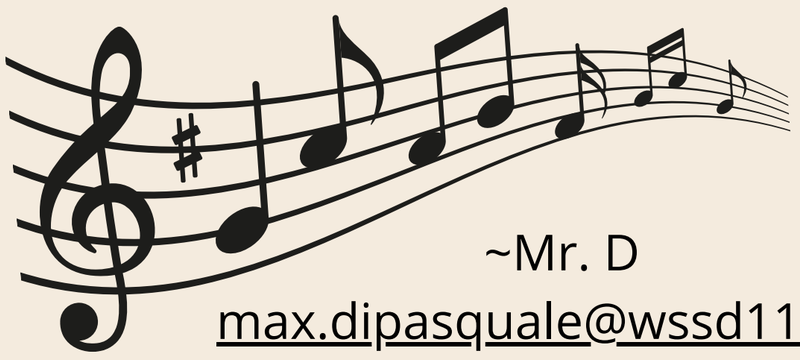
Congratulations to Pharaoh Clay and Rocco Fares who were selected to the ILMEA All District Jazz Band.

November Rehearsal Schedule:
7:15 - 8:00 AM
Mondays & Wednesdays - Drumline
Tuesdays & Thursdays - Jazz Band

11/20, 11/23, and 11/24 - 2:45 PM
Marching Band

Take note of these important dates:

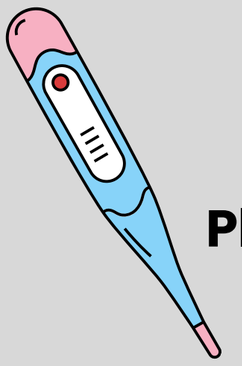
November 7 All District Jazz Band (select students)
November 10 Veterans Day Concert (during school)
Butter Braid Fundraiser due
November 21 All-District Band (selected students)
November 27 Belleville Santa Parade



~Mr. D
max.dipasquale@wssd115.org

Earn money for Whiteside with every day shopping. Download the Box Tops App, Create an account, and Start earning! Learn more here!





NURSES' NOTES

ILLNESSES AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:

Please refer to the handbook for when to keep students home when ill!

Hearing and vision screenings will start soon at both the Elementary and Middle Schools. Be on the lookout for more information!

Reminder: please turn in physicals, vaccine records, dental forms, and eye exams to the Nurses!

~Nurse Heather ~Nurse Morgan



MIDDLE SCHOOL



ELA TUTORING

5th - 8th Grade
Mondays & Wednesdays
from 2:45 - 3:40 PM in Room 812

MATH TUTORING



5th & 6th Grade Only
Mondays & Wednesdays
from 2:45 - 3:40 PM in Room 809







STAFF SHOUT OUTS

A special THANK YOU to these staff members for their hard work and dedication to excellent service for our students.

Max DiPasquale
Kate Geisen
Jasmine Hartwell
Alyse Mazzola
Taylor McDonald
Jayne Watkins
Amy Whitaker



Whiteside Education Foundation Fundraisers

Need groceries? Why not make them count for something bigger? Every Instacart Gift Card you buy through our fundraising page helps support Whiteside Education Foundation. Redeem it on the Instacart app for delivery or pickup nationwide from top stores like Target, Walmart, Costco, Safeway, Kroger, and CVS. Get all your groceries, snacks & essentials while giving back at the same time. Groceries that give back? Yes, please! Get yours here!

Doughnuts for a cause!! Whiteside Education Foundation is giving you the best reason to indulge in a dozen (or two) Krispy Kreme doughnuts. 50% of your order will be donated back to Whiteside Education Foundation when you purchase via our fundraising sales page! Simply buy online, visit your local store & redeem using your code. Treat yourself or even gift them to friends and family here!





GLEE CLUB

- Glee Club t-shirt orders due Monday, November 23rd by 3:00 PM
- Payments can be made via cash, check, or online through Revtrak (when requested)
- For any questions, email Laura Dismer at laura.dismer@wssd115.org

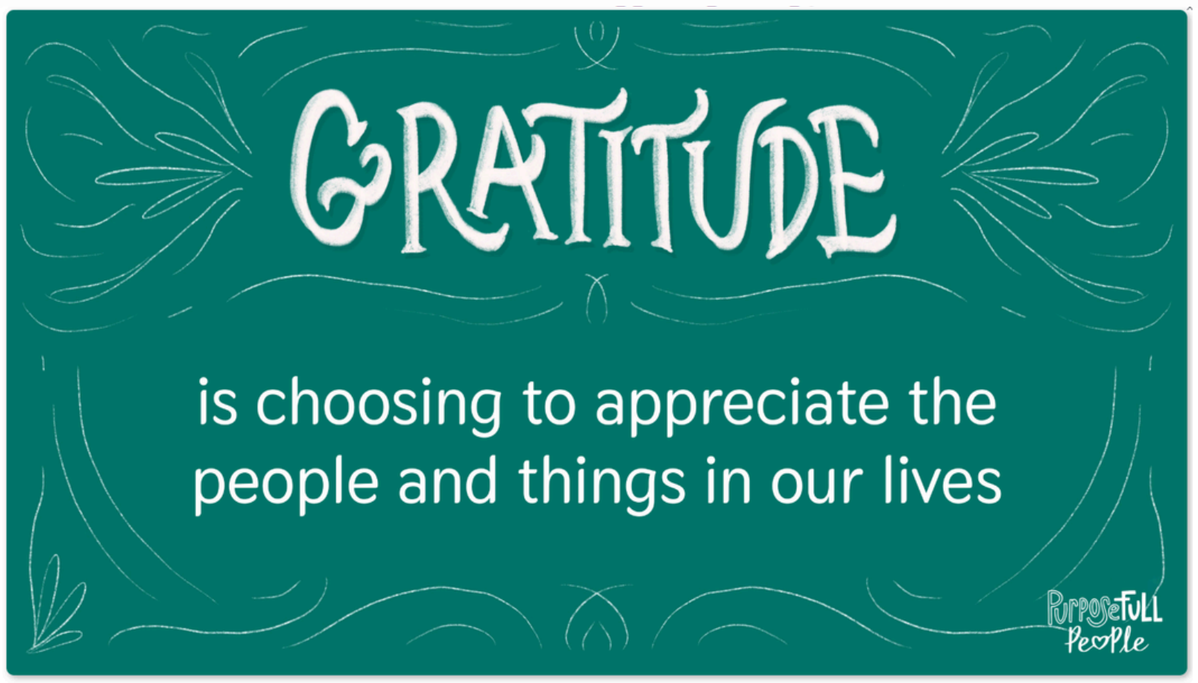
PurposeFULL People

Let's be PurposeFULL about GRATITUDE in November!

Gratitude Overview

We are looking forward to focusing on Gratitude this month! One way to think about Gratitude is "choosing to appreciate the people and things in our lives." Practicing Gratitude can increase our well-being and even our happiness!

Gratitude is 1 of 3 traits we will focus on throughout the year that helps students **Be Well**. Across grade levels, students will be developing skills like emotion regulation, positive self-talk, and stress-management.



Sing along to character songs with the PurposeFull People Family Playlist:
https://www.characterstrong.com/purposefull-playlist

Have some fun connecting as a family this month while practicing Gratitude. Here are 2 "PurposeFull Pursuits" you can complete together!

#1 What are some small, specific things that you are Grateful for? Maybe it is your favorite water cup, the way the cat sleeps on the chair, or when your grandma bakes banana bread. Spend some time as a family trying to think of at least 10 small things that you have Gratitude for and then choose to notice them this week with a smile.

#2 *Review Gratitude as a family! Remember that Gratitude is choosing to appreciate the people and things in our lives.*
Find a place in your home to display a glass jar. Cut up small slips of paper and place them next to the jar. Use the jar to collect special people, places, events, and memories that your family is thankful for. Find a time each week to add slips of Gratitude to the jar and assist students in writing or drawing gratitude as needed. Having a gloomy day or a challenging time as a family? Pull out the slips of Gratitude and read them aloud together as a reminder of your Grateful moments.

WHITESIDE® PTC

November 2026

Grateful for our Whiteside Community ♥

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 PTC Meeting at 6:00 PM at the Middle School	10	11 NO SCHOOL Joe's Pizza and Pasta Dine and Donate	12	13	14
15 Spiritwear Sales November 15-30	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

No School Happy Thanksgiving!

♥ SUPPORTING STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND FAMILIES ♥

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday, November 9: Monthly PTC Meeting
  - 6 PM in Middle School Library
  - Join us to find out what's happening in our schools and be in the know with all the events coming.
- November 10 - 12: Dine & Donate at Joe's Pizza
  - Mention Whiteside and your student's teacher. The class with the most sales wins a pizza party!
- November 15 - 30: Spirit Wear Sales
  - Delivery in time for the holidays!

Whiteside PTC Presents:

PANCAKES & PAJAMAS!



JANUARY 23, 2027

8:30AM – 10:30AM

Whiteside Elementary MPR

Questions? Email PTC at
whitesideptc@wssd115.org

Athletic Arena

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Zaid Dannoon for competing at the State Cross Country meet. This is an amazing accomplishment!

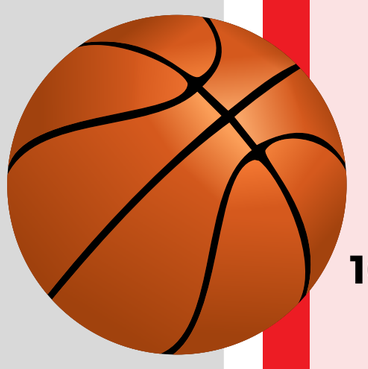
Admission Prices for Basketball Games:

Adults - $3

Students - $2

Seniors (65+ with ID) - Free

Under 5 - Free



Show your school spirit and support NJHS and the Cheer Team by purchasing necklaces, temporary tattoos, and pom-poms at every home game!



Booster Club

The Whiteside Booster Club is looking for more members and encourages everyone to participate in these upcoming events.

- Wednesday, November 18th - Booster Club Meeting in the MS lobby at 6pm



Sports Calendar

5
4:30 PM Whiteside v. Carriel - 7th & 8th Girls

7
11:00 AM Whiteside v. Carlyle - 7th and 8th Boys
at Rend Lake College

9
4:00 PM Home v. West - 5th Girls
4:00 PM Whiteside v. West - 5th Boys
5:00 PM Home v. West - 6th Girls
5:00 PM Whiteside v. West - 6th Boys
6:00 PM Home v. West - 7th Girls
6:00 PM Whiteside v. West - 7th Boys
7:00 PM Home v. West - 8th Girls
7:00 PM Whiteside v. West - 8th Boys

10
4:00 PM Home v. EMGE - 5th Boys
5:00 PM Home v. EMGE - 6th Boys
6:00 PM Home v. EMGE - 7th Boys
7:00 PM Home v. EMGE - 8th Boys
7:00 PM Whiteside v. EMGE - 8th Girls

12
4:00 PM Home v. Grant - 5th Girls
4:00 PM Whiteside v. Grant - 5th Boys
5:00 PM Home v. Grant - 8th Girls
5:00 PM Whiteside v. Grant - 6th Boys
6:00 PM Whiteside v. Grant - 7th Boys
7:00 PM Whiteside v. Grant - 8th Boys

14
11:00 AM OTHS Cheer Spiritfest Competition

17
6:00 PM Home v. Pontiac - 7th Boys
7:00 PM Home v. Pontiac - 8th Boys
7:00 PM Whiteside v. Pontiac - 8th Girls

19
4:00 PM Home v. JAMS - 5th Girls
4:00 PM Whiteside v. JAMS - 5th Boys
5:00 PM Home v. JAMS - 6th Girls
5:00 PM Whiteside v. JAMS - 6th Boys
6:00 PM Whiteside v. JAMS - 7th Boys
7:00 PM Home v. JAMS - 8th Girls
7:00 PM Whiteside v. JAMS - 8th Boys

23
4:00 PM Home v. Central - 5th Boys
4:00 PM Whiteside v. Central - 5th Girls
5:00 PM Home v. Central - 6th Boys
5:00 PM Whiteside v. Central - 6th Girls
6:00 PM Home v. Central - 7th Boys
6:00 PM Whiteside v. Central - 7th Girls
7:00 PM Home v. Central - 8th Boys
7:00 PM Whiteside v. Central - 8th Girls

24
6:00 PM Whiteside v. Shiloh - 7th Boys
7:00 PM Whiteside v. Shiloh - 8th Boys

Veterans Day Recognition Breakfast

When: Tuesday, November 10 at 8:30AM
RSVP REQUIRED

Where: Whiteside Middle School

RSVP by November 9, 2026.



TREATS FOR TROOPS







A CANDY GIVE-BACK PROGRAM

NOT SURE WHAT TO DO WITH ALL OF THAT EXTRA OR UNWANTED HALLOWEEN CANDY?

SEND IT TO SCHOOL FOR OUR 'TREATS FOR TROOPS' SERVICE PROJECT. WE WILL BE COLLECTING ALL OF THE CANDY AND SENDING IT TO SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE IN BAGS DECORATED FOR VETERAN'S DAY!

JUST PLACE YOUR CANDY IN THE BIN LOCATED AT THE ELEMENTARY MPR OR MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFICE EACH MORNING NOVEMBER 2ND-5TH.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT MRS. BRUEGGEMAN AT MAURA.BRUEGGEMAN@WSSD115.ORG

GINGERBREAD *Night*

Friday, December 11, 2026 • 6:00–8:00 PM

Whiteside Elementary School Multipurpose Room (MPR)

Glee Club Performance • 6:30 PM

Enjoy the sounds of the Middle School Jazz Band while you decorate your gingerbread house.

SCAN TO REGISTER



Whiteside Elementary School

Veterans Day Parade

Honoring all who served in our armed forces

☆☆ ☆☆

When: Tuesday, November 10, 2026
10:15 am

Where: Whiteside Elementary School
2028 Lebanon Ave

Check-in at the main office will begin at 10:00, with the indoor parade starting at 10:15. Veterans will parade through the halls of Whiteside Elementary School and greet students. Glee Club will be performing in the gym, and Veterans will exit the building at the gym lot at the conclusion of parade.

*If you are physically unable to parade the halls, please reach out to Mrs. Bossler kim.bossler@wssd115.org or 239-0000 ext 2308 for accommodations.

Wear RED, WHITE, & BLUE NOVEMBER 10th
To honor all who served in our Armed Forces!

Gratitude

CHARACTER COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMEBER 2026

GRATITUDE IN ACTION

This month, our school community is focusing on ***gratitude:*** choosing to appreciate the people and things in our lives.

SET UP FOR SUCCESS

Middle school students are managing changing relationships, responsibilities, and challenges. Practicing gratitude can help students notice positive experiences, strengthen connections, recognize support, and respond to difficulties with a more balanced perspective.

WAYS TO PRACTICE

- Notice small things: idetify what made your day better
- Keep a gratitude log: write down what you appreciate
- make a gratitude jar: add notes of appreciation at home and at school
- gratitude circle: invite others to share what they appreciate about others

CHARACTER COUNCIL NEWS

We collected over **350** non-perishable food items for families in our district! Way to go, Whiteside Middle School!

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/09: ALL members meeting
11/16: Food drive committee meeting
11/16-11/19: Erin's Law presentations
11/20: Eckert's pie pickup!