



September 2024

## WHITEHOUSE SCHOOL IMPORTANT "THINGS TO KNOW"

We encourage all parents to have their children ride the bus to and from school each day. This will help to minimize traffic in front of the school during busy times, as parking is limited. All parents should carefully read the attached instructions and follow these directions if picking up or dropping off a child becomes a necessity.

### School Hours for WHS

The first day of school is Thursday, September 5, 2024. It is a full day with classes in session from **8:30a.m. until 3:20p.m.** Children should arrive no later than **8:30a.m.**

### Morning Arrival at WHS

The first few days of school are important learning times for young children. Parents can help their children make the transition to school by establishing regular routines right from the very first day. Children are ready and eager to ride the bus to school and parents are encouraged to say their "goodbyes" at the bus stop. The staff will greet the buses as they arrive at WHS and make sure that every child gets to the correct location in the building.

All kindergarten students should wear the name tag (yellow bus) that they receive at the Open House/Kindergarten Bus Ride. The name tags help the teachers and bus drivers identify students. They should wear the tag from Thursday, September 5 until Monday, September 16, 2024.

### Parent Drop-Off In The Morning

The staff responsible for welcoming the buses will also greet children who walk to school or whose parents drop them off at school. These children may arrive between 8:25a.m. and 8:30a.m., so that they are ready for the start of the school day. **Parents who drop-off their children should not use the faculty parking lot as a drop-off "loop".** Instead, parents should use the "loop" on Whitehouse Avenue, where staff members will receive the children.

On the first two mornings of school, kindergarten and first grade classes will assemble in the Cafetorium, second grade classes will gather in the Library, and third graders should meet in the Gym. Teachers will greet students at these locations and proceed to their classrooms after all the students have arrived.

During the first week of school, the staff must intently focus on attending to student needs as they assist children in becoming more comfortable with our routines. For this reason, we regret that teachers will not be available to meet and greet parents. We count on everyone's cooperation and ask that parents not accompany children into the school.

Thank you in advance for your understanding.

### **Afternoon Dismissal at WHS**

#### **Buses**

Teachers and staff members will accompany the children to the buses in the afternoon and ensure that every child boards the correct bus. We encourage all children, except those attending the after-school program, to ride the bus.

#### **Parent Pick-Up**

Also, please note that since we have noticed that more and more students are riding the buses each year, we are going to reinstate our pre-pandemic routines for our dismissal procedures. School buses will return to the large loop near the playground in the afternoon. Parent Pick-Up will then take place in the Gymnasium. Parents will need to park in the regular parking lot.

#### **After-School YMCA Program**

The After-School YMCA Program will convene in the Cafetorium after dismissal.

### **Snacks, Lunch and Recess at WHS**

All children should bring a healthy snack to school every day, including the first day of school. Some recommended snack choices include cheese, crackers, pretzels, granola bars, fruit, cut vegetables, etc., with a small fruit drink, milk, or water (no soda or glass bottles, please.) Teachers provide time mid-morning or mid-afternoon for the children to take snack breaks. Children should be able to handle snack items on their own. Lunches and snacks are kept in the classroom and are not refrigerated. Parents are asked to keep snacks small and simple.

Recess is built into the schedule each day. The classroom teachers supervise their students at recess. In an effort to ensure that your children are clothed properly for outdoor play, parents are encouraged to pay attention to the weather and dress their children accordingly. For safety reasons, sneakers are ideal footwear and flip-flops are not permitted. On rainy and inclement weather days, the students will play indoor recess games in their classrooms.