Welcome to Annie Greencrow Whitehorse Middle School!

Whitehorse Middle School provides a rigorous educational setting for students to progress academically while exploring who they are as positive and powerful community members.

We strive to help students think critically, develop a lifelong thirst for learning and acquire 21st century learning skills. We have a thriving Unified Arts department that includes the exploration of art, music, family and consumer education, world language, physical education and AVID. We are also a technology-rich environment with all teachers infusing technology into their daily instruction and students working with one-to-one devices.

Character development, good citizenship, and academic and career planning are critical aspects of our school community. Our weekly lessons are aligned with the goals embedded in the MMSD’s graduate vision. We also have a thriving after-school partnership with MSCR where students can explore competitive and non-competitive sports experiences and clubs.

Together with families, we strive to create an environment that provides stability, promotes self-confidence and self-worth and nurtures awareness of the rich culture of our diverse school community.

Sincerely,

Principal Christina Natalello
Whitehorse Middle School

School equity vision
At Whitehorse, we are committed to exemplifying perseverance, authenticity, and equity so that all students, families, and staff share a sense of belonging and so that students will be prepared to graduate ready for college, careers, and the community. We model perseverance by setting high expectations and learning from our mistakes; we model authenticity by expressing empathy, sincerity, and validation; we strive to create equitable conditions by listening to others actively and believing that every student is capable of learning. We invite families to join staff as we work together to foster these values in our students so that they may grow to be reflective leaders in our community and world.

School contact information

Telephone
OFFICE: (608) 204-4480
FAX: (608) 204-0538
ATTENDANCE / SAFE ARRIVAL: (608) 204-4481

Address
218 Schenk St
Madison, WI 53714

Web address
https://whitehorse.madison.k12.wi.us
facebook.com/MMSDWhitehorse
School calendar

September
4             SCHOOLS OPEN – ONLY Middle School 6th grade students attend
5             All Middle and High School students attend
6             Picture day
10, 17, 24   Middle School Early Release
22             3rd Friday Official Membership Count Day

October
1, 8, 15, 29     Middle School Early Release
9             A Principal Experience
25             Picture retake day
26             No school, Professional Development Day for Staff

November
2             End of 1st Quarter
5, 26    Middle School Early Release
6             Fall General Election
12             No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences
20             Parent/Teacher Evening Conferences
21, 22, 23   No School - Thanksgiving Break

December
10             No School - Professional Development Day for Staff
3, 17     Middle School Early Release
24 - Jan 4     No School - WINTER BREAK

January
7             School Resumes
7, 14, 28    Middle School Early Release
21             No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
25             No School - Grade Reporting
             End of 2nd Quarter

February
8             No School - Professional Development Day for Staff
11             Middle School Early Release
19             Spring Primary Election

March
1             No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences
4, 11    Middle School Early Release
18             No School - Professional Development Day for Staff
25 - 29     No School - SPRING BREAK

See all upcoming events at https://whitehorse.madison.k12.wi.us/calendar
Strategic objectives

1. Student:
We will ensure that all students reach their highest potential and we will work to eliminate achievement gaps where they exist. To do this, we will prepare every student for college and career readiness, raise the bar for all students, create meaningful student-adult relationships, and provide student-centered programs and supports that lead to prepared graduates.

2. Curriculum:
We will improve academic outcomes for all students and ensure student engagement and student support by strengthening comprehensive curriculum, instruction, and assessment systems in the district.

3. Staff:
We will implement a formal system to support and inspire continuous development of effective teaching and leadership skills of all staff who serve to engage and support our diverse student body while furthering development of programs that target the recruitment and retention of staff members who reflect the cultural composition of our student body.

4. Resource/Capacity:
We will rigorously evaluate programs, services and personnel through a collaborative, data-driven process to prioritize and allocate resources effectively and equitably, and vigorously pursue the resources necessary to achieve our mission.

5. Organization/Systems:
We will promote, encourage and maintain systems of practice that will create safe and productive learning and work environments and that will unify and strengthen our schools, programs, departments and services as well as the district as a whole.

Find more information about the policies here in the district policy guide, found at www.mmsd.org/policy-guide.

Key Policies and Guidelines

Anti-bullying
All students are asked to report bullying and harassment. Harassment forms are available in every classroom and in the main office. If you as a family member have a concern, please contact our School Social Worker Kaitlin Hardin at 204-4493 or e-mail her at kmhardin@madison.k12.wi.us.

Behavior
We guide students to follow the 3 R’s: Respect Everyone, Respect the Environment, Respect Education.

Dress code
We are aware that there is a close relationship between dress and student attitude toward school. This type of personal expression is especially important for students in the middle school years. Your support with purchasing clothing that expresses individual style and supports an attitude of respect for learning is appreciated. Appropriate dress is respectful of all community members and contributes to a positive learning environment. Clothes that are offensive, tasteless, distracting, overly revealing, or clothing that symbolizes gang affiliation are not appropriate for school. Discretion in dress is advised as it relates to short shorts/skirts, low cut tops or tank tops. Other guidelines for appropriate dress follow, though dress code determinations can be made at the principal’s discretion.
The following clothing items are prohibited:

**General**
- Coats or jackets
- Pajamas
- Bare feet
- Wallet chains
- House slippers
- Visible underwear
- Clothing that is too skimpy or revealing
- Clothing and accessories that depict gang behavior or glorify gang activity
- Because they might obscure a student’s identity, hats and tops with hoods (i.e. hooded sweatshirts) may not be worn in school. Headgear worn for religious reasons is allowed.
- Clothing promoting alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs
- Clothing with obscene, sexual, violent, racist, tasteless slogans or graphic depictions

Students may not wear attire with Native American team names that depict negative stereotypes. For any specific questions, please refer to the MMSD website for guidelines. Exceptions to this policy need to be approved in writing by the Principal.

**Tops**
- Muscle shirts or tops with straps narrower than three fingers
- T-Shirts that carry profane, obscene, or offensive slogans or pictures
- Spaghetti straps, see-through mesh shirts, backless tops, halter tops, tube tops, tops that expose the stomach, and sleeveless shirts that expose sides

**Bottoms**
- Short shorts -- shorts should be no shorter than the length of student’s arms
- Sagging pants

**Electronic devices**
All personal electronic devices (i.e. cell phones) that are not provided by the district should be powered off and stored in lockers. Students are not allowed to have them on their person for any reason. See the district one-to-one student device policy for more details about chromebook use.

Electronics policy violation procedures:
- 1st time: Students are escorted to their lockers to secure their device until the end of the day.
- 2nd time: Student will meet with the principal, the device will be secured in her office, and a phone call will be made home.
- 3rd time: Device will be stored in the principal office and a parent or guardian must retrieve the device from the principal and create a plan to help prevent future infractions. The student will be requested to leave their device at home for a week or to turn it in or pick up each day from the office. In addition to the plan outlined above, please know that student behaviors regarding electronic device use are also subject to consequences outlined in the district Behavior Education Plan.

**Emergency situation procedures**
Monthly unannounced fire drills are scheduled. Code red drills are done each semester and a tornado drill is done in April. See our school calendar for a complete schedule.

**Family engagement**
We value strong partnerships with families. Please consider the many volunteer opportunities and participate in our Family Forums. The name of our parent organization is ‘Connecting Whitehorse Families’ (cwfpto@gmail.com) and our co-presidents are Leah Nell Adams and Shahla Werner. They can be reached at ladams125@gmail.com and shahlawerner@yahoo.com. We also have a bilingual resource specialist, Liana Diaz, who can assist families who have a Spanish language preference. She can be reached at 608-620-4201.

**Field trips**
Parents and guardians grant passive permission for all field trips unless they choose to opt their student out. In most circumstances you can expect to receive field trip communication two weeks in advance.
Lunch expectations
Students are not permitted to eat lunch or snacks in areas of the school other than the cafeteria, unless they are given a pass from a teacher or staff member. Parents or guardians may not drop off food for their children after their student's lunch break; however, this may be permitted in special occasions or occasional unforeseen circumstances. Delivered food will be brought to the main office and students will be paged to retrieve it at their assigned lunch time. Parents and guardians are not permitted in the cafeteria. If you wish to eat lunch with your child for a special occasion, please call the main office that morning and make your request. We will call your child to the main office and provide you with a space to eat.

Parent/teacher conferences
Please refer to the school calendar for parent/teacher conference dates. Mid-year conferences will be scheduled for students who are at risk for failing core courses.

Releasing children from school during the day
Students who become ill during the day MUST be sent to the health office with a pass. All students going home during the school day due to illness will be processed through the health office. It is against school policy for students to communicate directly with a parent or guardian in case of illness without going through the health office. Students leaving for any other reason will either need a note or phone call from a parent or guardian excusing them, or the parent will have to come into the office for verification. Please note: only people on a student's contact list are able to pick them up unless we receive notice from a parent or guardian.

School breakfast and lunch
Breakfast can be ordered daily and is brought to the homeroom. Lunch schedules are as follows: 7th grade at 10:45, 6th grade at 11:00, and 8th grade at 11:15.

School fees
All annual fees will be available to view in the parent portal of Infinite Campus. If you need fees waived, please consult with the principal.

School Improvement Planning
The Whitehorse SIP (School Improvement Plan) may be found on the school website. Quarterly updates on our goals and progress will be provided to families at Connecting Whitehorse Family meetings in September, December, February and May. Please also consider attending family forums to submit feedback on our goals and progress.

Student personal property
All students will be assigned a locker. Every student is required to have two master locks, one for their hallway locker and one for their gym locker. Those locks will be provided to all students at the beginning of the year. All personal property should be housed in the locker with a locked combination lock.

Student support services
School Nurse - Julie Sonneberg
Social Worker - Kaitlin Hardin
School Psychologist - Heather Krumnow
School Counselor - Wendy Ellis

Traffic safety
The city prohibits stopping, standing or parking at the curb on school days from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. If you drop off your student, please be wary of these boundaries and drop your student off on Richard Street, which is right next to the school. Please be advised that 5 metro buses need space in front of our school to load and unload our students.

Transportation
10-rider and 2-rider bus passes are available for sale before and after school in the main office. In the event that students forget or misplace their bus pass, the office can issue a 2-rider to get them home and back to school in the morning. The office will cap free passes at 3 per student, and any further passes must be paid for at the time of need.