

Wisconsin Hills Middle School

Summer Newsletter

August 2, 2019



Message from Principal Schroeder

Hello Wisconsin Hills Families,

My name is Matt Schroeder, principal at Wisconsin Hills Middle School. For the past four years, I have been an associate principal at Brookfield Central HS, and prior to that I was a Teaching & Learning Specialist, English Teacher, Spanish teacher, AVID Elective teacher, and Reading Interventionist at Brookfield East HS. I started in Elmbrook in 1998 teaching Spanish at Pilgrim Park Middle School. Now, I am more than excited to begin this journey with all of you at Hills.

It has been a busy summer preparing for the 2019-2020 school year. Our biggest project from a facilities standpoint has been in the Library. We have increased the visibility to our MakerSpace (Fab Lab) by removing the wall and installing glass doors, enhancing accessibility and indirectly reinforcing the design thinking process. We have also added several comfortable spaces for students to work both individually or in teams. We have several new hires who are listed below, and we are busy preparing for students to return to this amazing place.

In this newsletter, you will find a great deal of information regarding our events to acclimate families to the start of our school year. We welcome students and families back to WHMS for our Picture, Chromebook, Locker Set-up Day on August 27th!

As I head into my 1st year as principal, I'm reflecting quite a bit on the road that has led me here. My strength is founded on building relationships, and my hope is that we continue to foster a culture of belonging at Wisconsin Hills. When students feel comfortable and connected, they stretch themselves in the classroom and beyond. That is the kind of place I want you sending your student(s) every day, and I am responsible for creating the conditions that foster that culture.

With warm regards,

Matt

[ANNUAL ONLINE REGISTRATION & FEE PAYMENT](#) opened
[Tuesday, July 23rd](#)

Registration and fee payment is completed online beginning in the [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#). For detailed, step-by-step instructions for online registration [click here](#) and for fee payment [click here](#).



8/27/19 Tuesday, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

[LOCKER SET UP AND PICTURE DAY\(S\)](#)

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL:

Print your child's schedule from Infinite Campus.

Schedules will go live on Infinite Campus on August 14 and an assigned locker number will be listed on each student's schedule. Be sure to select the "Print with locker number" option when you print out the schedule so you will know your locker number when you come for set-up.



STATION 1: GYM

- Take student picture for school ID and for our Yearbook.
- Visit our PTO booth for spirit wear, event details and volunteer opportunities.
- Pick up your pre-ordered Write Stuff school supply kits.
- Pick up your school-issued locker locks.

If you are planning to order pictures, please go to www.MyLifeTouch.com prior to the 27th, entering the following info:

WHMS 2019 Code: EVTFKNZMX
(Enter your child's first name)



Picture MakeUp Day for any student who misses the 27th is Tuesday, 9/17/19.

Picture Retake Day is set for Tuesday, 10/29/19.

STATION 2: GRADE LEVEL HALLWAY

(6th grade ground floor, 7th & 8th 2nd floor)

Set up locker. *All supplies including Kleenex & wipes should be stored in locker.*

STATION 3: LIBRARY

Pick up Chromebook, case, and charging cord.

If you are unable to attend Locker Set Up, please know the building is open 8/26 – 8/30 during school business hours (8:00 am– 3:00 pm) for additional locker set up time if needed.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL -

Tuesday, September 3, 2019

This will be a full day of school for ALL Students
from 7:18 a.m. to 2:31 p.m.

6th Graders will receive special treatment upon arrival. As they come off their bus, the 7th grade students will be there with signs to greet them and direct them to the gymnasium. They will be given a short presentation, an introduction to their teachers, and then escorted to their classrooms. In addition, we have our...



ANNUAL 6TH GRADE ICE CREAM SOCIAL:

***The first day of school from 12:05 pm–12:40 pm ~
Tuesday 9/3/19***



The Ice Cream Social gives our 6th Graders a chance to mingle and celebrate their first day of middle school.

- *Volunteers are needed to help set up, scoop, serve, and clean up. All parents are welcome to volunteer.*
- *Donations are needed for the ice cream sundaes.*
- *Here is a link to the [Sign Up Genius](#) if you would like to volunteer or make a donation.*

Cathy Seifert

email: rogowcat@att.net

cell #: 262 894 9900

Kim Prudlow

email: kim@honeycreekhomes.com

cell #: 414 397 3249

Parent Meet & Greet: This is an open house format, providing parents an opportunity to meet the teachers. Students are welcome but are not required to attend.

Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 4 - 6 p.m.



Volunteering at Wisconsin Hills

We warmly welcome those who are able to support our students and staff by volunteering during the school year. To ensure the safety of all students, the Elmbrook School Board has adopted a new policy regarding volunteers. Criminal background checks are required for all volunteers. Below is a link to the web site where you can read the policy and make online application for the criminal background check. Please be aware that the criminal background check must be completed before volunteering at Hills or any school in the District. Thank you!

[Mandatory Volunteer Application](#)

----SIGN UP DURING ONLINE REGISTRATION----

Our goal is to enhance & encourage the education of students while developing and strengthening relationships between our parents, school, & community.



Co-Presidents: Kim Liepert and Bushra Zaibak

Vice President: Sue Kaloti

Treasurer: Michelle Braman

Secretary: Abha Supatkar

Communications: Nina Stull


Please feel free to reach out to the WHMS PTO via email with any questions about how to volunteer! wisconsinhillspto@gmail.com

Please note that WHMS PTO is currently looking for a Hospitality Co-Chair who will be able to coordinate on-site tasks. You would be working alongside Julie Manders.

Sarah Leatherman - Associate Principal

I am incredibly excited to be serving as the Associate Principal here at Hills! My family and I moved to Elm Grove two years ago from the Madison area. Prior to moving here, I had been a middle school science teacher for sixteen years. For the past two years, I have served as an Associate Principal and Athletic Director in Oak Creek. My husband and I have two daughters: one still in middle school, and the other will be moving on to the high school this fall! We love anything outdoors: hiking, running, biking, and enjoying our time





together. I am honored to be able to be a part of such an amazing community, and I cannot wait to meet you!

→ *Sarah Toellner - 6 GR ELA*


I am so honored and thrilled to be teaching English Language Arts for 6th grade this upcoming school year at Wisconsin Hills. My background includes teaching English at New Berlin West Middle and High School, Whitnall High School, and Palmyra-Eagle Middle and High School. I was at Palmyra-Eagle for twelve years and this is where I fell in love with teaching at the middle level. Currently my husband and I are living in Waukesha and we are kept very busy by our two kids, Hadley (4) and Cade (3). I am so excited to meet everyone and start a great year!

→ *Jenna Gainer - FACE*

I am looking forward to working with the staff, parents, and students at WHMS! I will be teaching Family and Consumer Science classes where students will engage in hands-on activities that will enhance their learning. In 2017 I graduated from Olivet Nazarene University a semester early, and spent the following semester as a paraprofessional aiding students with disabilities. After this position, I worked at Riverview Middle School in Plymouth teaching culinary classes for grades 5-8. I love to hike, walk my dog (Lambeau), spend time with my family and friends, and I absolutely love to bake anything with chocolate! I am beyond excited to teach FACS at WHMS and get to know the community better!

→ *Lindsay Bialobrzewski - 7 GR Math*

I am honored and excited to begin working with the Wisconsin Hills community this year! I have spent the past five years working as an Education Therapist for Rogers Behavioral Health, focusing on the treatment of school-based anxiety and obsessive compulsive disorder. Prior to that, I taught 7th and 8th grade literacy for three years in the Muskego-Norway School District. My husband, Brian, and I will be celebrating our first wedding anniversary in September. In our free time, we enjoy hiking, going up



north and taking our dog, Addie, to the park. I am a proud graduate of the Elmbrook School District and cannot wait to return "home" this fall!

→ *Stephanie Docter - 6 GR Math*


Hello! My name is Steph Docter, and I am beyond excited to be joining the WHMS team this upcoming school year! I grew up in Oconomowoc, WI, and I have recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin – LaCrosse in May of 2019 with a degree in Elementary/Middle Education and a Math minor. For my final semester, I student taught in a 1st grade classroom at Eagle Bluff Elementary School in Onalaska, and prior to this experience I was in a 6th grade math classroom at Lincoln Middle School in LaCrosse. I enjoy spending time outdoors with family and friends, and traveling to new places. I look forward to meeting all of my students and the staff at WHMS and can't wait to be part of such an awesome learning community!


→ *Andrew Flegel - Special Education Teacher*

I am very excited to join Wisconsin Hills this year. I am coming from Oak Creek where I was a special education teacher for 6th and 7th grade and also coached baseball, basketball, and football. Before that, I did my student teaching at Wisconsin Hills which makes me even happier to join the staff. I am looking forward to working with the Elmbrook community!

→ *Tina Kobus - 6 GR ELA*

Hello to the Wisconsin Hills community! Words can hardly express my excitement at being invited to share in the educational growth of your children. I have spent the last six years teaching here in Wisconsin, most recently in New Berlin. Over my 23 year career I have had the unique opportunity to be certified and taught in four states: Michigan, Arizona, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Each new state has given me the opportunity to grow as a professional in middle school education, specializing in either English or Science instruction. I also take pride in being a mom of two wonderful daughters, happily negotiating this path with my amazing husband, Chris. When I'm





not poolside watching my girls competitively swim, I love to sit in a quiet corner and read, take our dog for walks, root for our hometown sports teams, and as of late, churn homemade ice cream! I look forward to all the great things we will build together! Fun fact: I helped to serve the world's largest cherry pie – ask me about it sometime!

→ *Heather Komorowski - Special Education Teacher*

I feel extremely privileged and excited to join the Wildcat community of Wisconsin Hills! I am eager to create strong partnerships with parents and connections with staff. I've obtained my masters in Special Education, and am currently in pursuit of completing a second masters in Administrative Leadership for education. I have experience working in a middle school as well as elementary school setting and believe that all students can learn and succeed! My fiancé and I love to go camping and doing anything outdoors. We will be getting married in June of next year... but until then I look forward to an outstanding year at Wisconsin Hills.

→ *Joanie Rueth - Computer Science Teacher*

I am looking forward to returning to Wisconsin Hills as a Computer Science teacher. For the last 8 years, I have been a Teaching and Learning Specialist/Technology Coach at the 2 high schools in the district. Prior to that, I had been a Technology Coach at Wisconsin Hills and Brookfield Central for 8 years. Although I started my professional career as a high school math teacher, technology has been my passion for over 20 years, and I look forward to sharing it with students at Wisconsin Hills.



In the event of a student absence, the parent/guardian must call the **absentee reporting line at (262) 780-8083 by 8:00am on each day of the absence.** If the parent/guardian has not provided prior notice or called, then a school representative will call the parent/guardian to inquire about the student's absence. Parents of students who will be vacationing

two or more consecutive days during the school year should contact the Attendance Office and Guidance Office well in advance of their planned departure to determine the effect that travel will have on the student's academic performance.

Maria Kosanke KosankeM@elmbrookschools.org

Attendance Administrator

Absentee reporting line (262)780-8083

WHMS: (262) 785-3960

Fax: (262) 785-3967

Morning Arrival:

School buses drop off students at the North end of the building. Students may enter through either set of doors and report directly to the cafeteria or Library if it is before **7:00 am**. Parents should plan to drop off students along the curb next to our cafeteria. Parents are asked to pull down the sidewalk as far as possible before stopping to drop off their students. **Please do not drop students off in the driveway without pulling to the curb.** It is unsafe to have students cross between other cars pulled against the curb who may not see your son/daughter crossing in front/back of them. Please allow additional time for drop-off on days when it is raining or snowing.

Afternoon Dismissal:

Buses depart WHMS at approximately 2:40pm. Our WHMS traffic patterns, signage, and safety expectations have been established in collaboration with the Brookfield Police Department.

FOR SAFETY & SECURITY, we ask parents who pick up their child to wait in their cars. Students being picked up will not be permitted to enter the parking lot until all buses have departed. To reduce traffic and wait times, we strongly encourage students to ride the bus whenever possible.

Riding the Bus Home With A Friend:

Permission to ride a bus other than one's own must be gained by presenting a signed note from to the school office. **Signed notes must be brought to the school office as soon as the student arrives to school in the morning.** A bus pass will be issued to the student as long as space permits on the bus. Students must give this approved bus pass to the driver. Drivers will not accept non-route students on their bus without an approved bus pass. **Each student is allowed to bring a maximum of two other students onto their bus space permitting.**

Email: KosankeM@elmbrookschoools.org

Fax: (262) 785-3967



BE SAFE

Check out the next page for our traffic flow.

WHMS Parking Lot

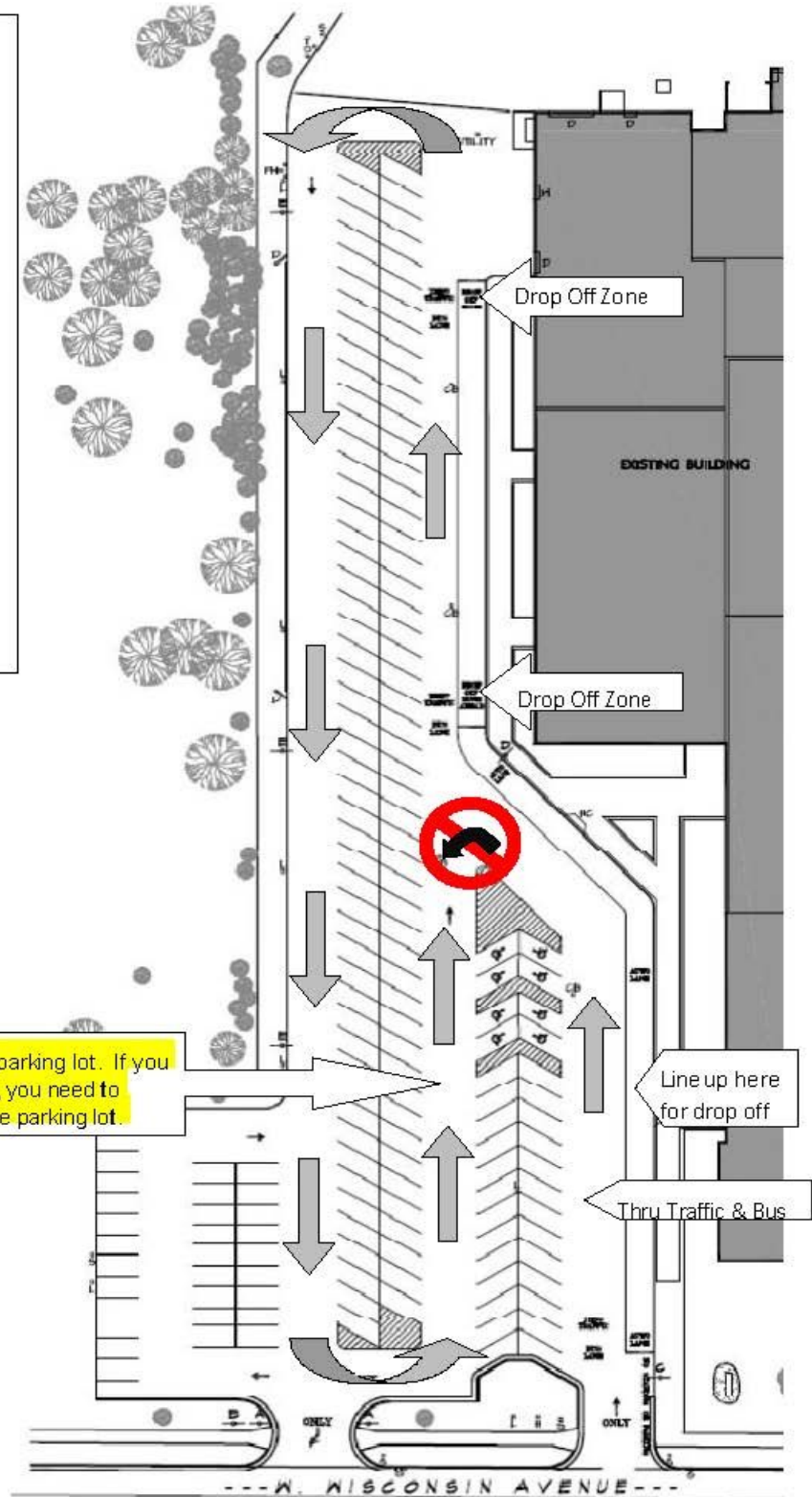
Traffic patterns have changed at WHMS over the past few years. Please pay attention to the traffic flow patterns outlined on the map.

There is a dedicated lane right next to the building for drop off purposes.

Just to the left of the "drop off" is the "thru traffic" lane.

Please use caution when entering and leaving the parking lot. Be aware of pedestrians and other cars.

This is the biggest change in the parking lot. If you would like to park in this section, you need to make a complete loop around the parking lot.






**GET
INVOLVED!**

We offer a wide variety of clubs and sports for students to explore. Here are a few that start in September:

- CROSS COUNTRY
- EXTREME JAZZ
- GEOGRAPHY CLUB
- HISTORY CLUB
- JAZZ LAB
- SUPER SINGERS
- SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
- VOCAL ENSEMBLE
SHOWCASE SINGERS
- WILDCAT DRUMLINE
- NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR
SOCIETY
- BEAUTIFICATION CLUB

[CLICK HERE](#) for full details of our Activities & Sports. Info is always announced on the [daily announcements](#) and posted on our [WHMS website](#).

Family Engagement Opportunities

Please use our [2019 School Calendar](#) for the most updated events, but here is a glimpse...

MONTH	DAY	OPPORTUNITY	PURPOSE
August	27	Picture Day & Locker Set Up	WHMS will be open 10am - 6pm for all to organize their lockers, pick up School Paks and have their pictures taken. Locker shelves will already be here in all lockers for your convenience. Watch website for details on LifeTouch photos!

			Make Up Day - 9/17/19 Re-Take Day - 10/29/19
September	3	First Day of School	7:18am - 2:31pm
September	6	PTO Meeting	Learn about our PTO partnership with school through activities, volunteer opportunities, and yearly projects.
September	10	Parent Meet & Greet	Learn about the curriculum, classroom approach to teaching and learning, and how you can support your child's learning.
September	17	Picture Make-Up Day	Watch website for details (Re-Take Day 10/29/19)
October	4	PTO Meeting	Learn about our PTO partnership with school through activities, volunteer opportunities, and yearly projects.
October	16 & 24	Parent Teacher Conferences	Discuss your child's progress with his/her teachers.
November	1	PTO Meeting	Learn about our PTO partnership with school through activities, volunteer opportunities, and yearly projects.
December	6	PTO Meeting	Learn about our PTO partnership with school through activities, volunteer opportunities, and yearly projects.
January	3	PTO Meeting	Learn about our PTO partnership with school through activities, volunteer opportunities, and yearly projects.
January	16	Parent Teacher Conferences	Discuss progress updates, invitation only.
February	7	PTO Meeting	Learn about our PTO partnership with school through activities, volunteer opportunities, and yearly projects.
March	4	PTO Meeting	Learn about our PTO partnership with school

			through activities, volunteer opportunities, and yearly projects.
April	3	PTO Meeting	Learn about our PTO partnership with school through activities, volunteer opportunities, and yearly projects.
April	8 & 14	Parent Teacher Conferences	Discuss your child's progress with his/her teachers.
April	26	Run for the Hills @ 12noon	Join our biggest PTO event to support students in health and wellness as well as school programs
May	1	PTO Meeting	Learn about our PTO partnership with school through activities, volunteer opportunities, and yearly projects.
June	5	PTO Meeting	Last one of the year!



*Please join our Twitter community: [@WHMS_SDE](https://twitter.com/WHMS_SDE)
See the life of a Wildcat in action!*