August 13, 2021

WEST MICHIGAN Academy of Arts & Academics

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Llama Letters

Hello WMAAA Families-

The 2021-2022 school year is almost upon us! We are excited to have students back in the building with us soon. This issue is packed with lots of school year information.

2021-2022 General Information
Click this link or go to pages 4-5 for an outline of the General Information for the 2021-2022 school year.

2021-2022 COVID-19 & Communicable Disease Protocols
Click this link or go to page 6 for an outline of the COVID-19 FAQ's and page 7 for the COVID-19 Guidelines for Fall 2021. Please note that this remain unchanged as of 8/13/2021, but are subject to change should we receive a public health order from CDC, MDHHS, and/or the Ottawa County Health Department. Athletics will adhere to rules set forth by MDHHS and MHSAA.

Food Ordering
September (including breakfast for August 31st) food ordering is now available on the Parent Portal. An official email will go out on Monday August 16th. Any family that has an existing portal account can order now. New families will have instructions in the email for completing your first Parent Portal sign-on.
WMAAA is currently awaiting approval to provide free breakfasts and lunches to every student in the district through the 2021-2022 school year. Because we anticipate this approval, there will be no charge when you sign-up for breakfast and lunch.
Please note that WMAAA has "significant" funding attached to our free and reduced count numbers. Because of this, it is important that everyone fill out a "free and reduced" form. Click here for a hard copy.

Playground Update
WMAAA continues to raise funds for new playground equipment. See page 5 for more information or to reserve your tiles! We were also hopeful that much of the new equipment would be installed for the beginning of the school year. However, due to several unforeseen circumstances including a fire at the manufacturing facility, there was a delivery delay. As a result, the equipment has not yet arrived and will likely not be installed until later this fall or early spring. We are excited that the new soccer nets have arrived and will be installed for the start of school!

Recess Helpers
WMAAA is looking to add a few Recess Aides or Volunteers. If you are interested, please contact the school office.

As always, we are here to help! If you have a questions or concerns, please contact the office. Summer office hours will continue until August 23rd. If you need assistance, the office will be open 9am-2pm, Monday through Thursday.

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Important Dates

8/23 - New Teacher PD
8/24 - KinderKamp - 9-11am (all TK and Kindergarten students)
- Para Professional Training 1-3pm
- Board Meeting - 6:30pm (Theater)
8/25-26 - All Teacher PD days
8/26 - Meet, Greet, and Find Your Seat Event 4-6pm
8/31 - 1st Day of School for Students - 1/2 Day 11:30am dismissal
- BooHoo Breakfast for all Parents - 8-9am (Central Courtyard) hosted by PTSO
9/3-9/6 - No School for Staff or Students - Labor Day Weekend
9/7 - 1st Day of School for Preschool
- PTSO Meeting - 4pm (Room 202 - Mrs. Wilthof)
9/14 - School Picture Day
- Parent Open House - TK, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade 5:30-6:00pm
- 2nd and 3rd Grades 6:00-6:30pm
- 4th and 5th Grades 6:30-7:00pm
- Middle School 7:00-7:30pm
- Preschool Time TBD
9/24 - PTSO Middle School Night at Craig's Cruisers 6-8pm (more details coming soon)
9/28 - Board Meeting - 6:30pm (Theater)

Special Reminders

WMAAA 2021-2022 ENROLLMENT
WMAAA is still accepting enrollment applications for the 2021-2022 school year. Interested families can check out our website, social media pages, or call the school office.

HARBOR TRANSIT
Is your student in need of transportation this coming school year? Ottawa County/Tri-Cities area students can apply for a standing order for school transportation with Harbor Transit starting on July 26th at 9am. Click here for more information

WALKER PERMISSION FORM
If you have a student that will walk home (or to another off campus location, please click here to complete Walker Permission Form.

PIANO AND ORCHESTRA LESSONS
We are working to determine the interest level in pay to play music lessons held at the school. We have a previous piano teacher who is looking to organize lessons. Additionally, a lunch time orchestra group started during the 2019-2020 school year and may be available again. If you are interested in either of these, please email ctease@westmichiganacademy.org

PTSO In the Know!

The PTSO helps support WMAAA Staff, Students, and Families in a variety of ways! These include but are not limited to sponsoring class field trips, FOA Week, and hosting a variety of fun events through the year.
We will be hosting a BooHoo Breakfast on the 1st day of school. Meet us in the school courtyard from 8-9am to find out all the events we have planned for the 2021-2022 school year and how you can help.
There will be donuts and coffee too!

Mark Your Calendar
- Middle School Craig's Cruiser's Night - 9/24 6-8pm
- Car Wash Fundraiser - 10/2 Time TBD
- Jumpin' Jupiter Family Fun Night - 11/16 6-8pm

More info coming soon on all of these events!

Are you interested in being on the PTSO Board?
CLICK HERE for more information!

Parents, Students, and Teachers...we are always in need of support! Please consider joining us.

PTSO meetings will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 4pm in Room 202 (Mrs. Wilthof)

Follow us on Facebook @wmaaaptso

Staff Spotlights

Joanna Bennink - Director

Hello! My name is Joanna (Joey) Bennink and I am the Director of WMAAA. I have been here for 4 wonderful years and I could not be more excited about what is happening at this amazing school! Thanks to our talented staff, gracious families, welcoming students, and forward-thinking school board we are making arts education achievable for all children.

I have been in education for 20 years - as a teacher and administrator in Michigan and Vermont. I am married to my best friend, Jim, and together we have four great kids - Zack (21), Brendan (19), Sean (17), and Ally (14.) I enjoy working with children and families and I have done this throughout my life. From babysitting and teaching swimming lessons to teaching first grade and being a Principal and now a Director.

The best thing about this school is the dedication of everyone to the mission of our school - helping students achieve their ultimate personal success through the unique integration of arts and academics. This is what school SHOULD be all about! Thank you for being a part of our WMAAA family!

Jennifer Knittel - MTSS Coordinator

Hi! I am Jenn Knittel and I am so excited to be starting my second year at WMAAA! As the MTSS Coordinator, I have the unique opportunity to work closely with staff and students to continue to build the positive school culture that makes this school so special.

Prior to this, I taught English at Spring Lake High School for 12 years, worked as an academic advisor in the Ottawa Area Early College program, and was an instructional coach at the Careerline Tech Center.

Outside of school, I am a crafter with good intentions....I just can't quite seem to make the end product match the vision in my head. More than anything, though, I enjoy spending time with my husband and two kids. We love road trips...especially to the U.P. We also enjoy playing games, camping, fishing, and attending sporting events.

2021-2022 School Year General Information

Kinder Kamp

Tuesday, August 24th 9-11am
Kinder Kamp allows our newest students (TK and Kindergarteners) the chance to practice coming to school. It is a great opportunity to walk the halls before the big kids flood in on the first day.

Supply Lists

2021-2022 school year

Meet, Greet, Find Your Seat

Thursday, August 26th 4-6pm
During the first week of August, WMAAA will be mailing home postcards to all students.
Elementary student's postcards will include classroom teacher assignments. Come meet and greet with your teacher and find your seat in your classroom!
Middle School students will get their Homeroom/Advisory teacher assignment. Come meet and greet with your teachers and find your locker and classrooms!
Pick-up signs will be available during this event.
There will be goodies and prizes along with spirit sticks for all students who attend. The PTSO will have a table set up with information about their plans for the upcoming school year.

Pick-up Signs

WMAAA is upgrading student pick-up signs this year. Previously known as "orange cards", these are signs that you put in your vehicle window so that staff can call your student's name for dismissal and make sure that students get into the appropriate vehicle.

If you need specific names on your sign (i.e. you are carpooling, pick-up extended family, etc), please complete this form for those requests. Otherwise your sign will only have the name(s) of the student(s) in your household. Additionally, if you need more than one sign per family, please let us know so that we can have them ready for pick-up at Kinder Kamp; Meet, Greet, Find Your Seat; and/or to send home on the first day of school.

School Calendar

First day of School is Tuesday, August 31st. This will be a ½ day with 11:30am dismissal.

2021-2022 school year

Daily Schedule

7:30am - Doors open for drop off
8:00am - School starts
3:00pm - School dismissal
3:45pm - All students must be picked up

Instructional Model

All students will attend school full-time five days per week. WMAAA will not be offering a virtual option for the 2021-2022 school year.

Infinite Campus

Infinite Campus gives you the ability to check grades and attendance regularly along with placing food orders. Additionally, most communication will come through email. Be sure your email address is correct on your account..
If you have already set up a parent account during previous grades, it does not change.
You can find by the login page clicking on Parent Portal at the top of our website.

Lockers/Backpacks

All students in 2nd-8th grade will have full use of their lockers this year. Lockers cannot be padlocked so students should carry any valuables in their backpack or leave those items at home.
Middle school students will need to safely transport chromebooks between classes. Therefore, will be able to use a backpack to carry a safe weight to and from class.

Harbor Transit

Harbor Transit will be offering student transportation for the 2021-2022 school year. Forms available at the Harbor Transit office and online at

https://www.harbortransit.org/student-transportation/

Click HERE to see their service area.

Facebook

Please like and follow our page @wmaaaschool.
We will continue to share great things here!

School Food Program

WMAAA is currently awaiting approval to provide free breakfasts and lunches to every student in the district through the 2021-2022 school year.

Please note that WMAAA has "significant" funding attached to our free and reduced count numbers. Because of this, it is important that everyone fill out a "free and reduced" form. Click here for a paper copy. Office staff is also working to set up a confidential, virtual portal for these forms.

Beginning of school food ordering information will be available soon.

Parent Open House

Tuesday September 14th

5:30-6:00pm TK, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade
6:00-6:30pm 2nd and 3rd Grades
6:30-7:00pm 4th and 5th Grades
7:00-7:30pm Middle School

This event will give parents the chance to get acquainted with their student's teacher (or teachers), see the school building and classrooms, and get a quick overview of class expectation and the year's curriculum.

Building Visitors

7:30-8:00am: We ask that parents/visitors only enter the building if they have a scheduled appointment with a staff member.

During the School Day: If a student forgets an item, there is a drop off table available outside of the main entrance that is checked often. Parents may leave labeled items there and office staff will get them to the appropriate student.
Visitors are able to come to the office window to conduct school business.
Parents/visitors will only be able to proceed past the office window if they have a scheduled appointment with a staff member or have an approved volunteer assignment.

3:00-3:15pm: We ask that parents/visitors only enter the building if they have a scheduled appointment with a staff member. This will allow us time to get dismissal underway, Harbor Transit riders to the buses, and the majority of students out of the building.

3:15-3:45pm: Parents/Visitors are free to enter the building.

**Information as of July 29, 2021

COVID-19 & Communicable Disease Protocols FAQ's

Are face masks required at school?

- At this time, face masks will be optional and provided by parents/guardians. We strongly recommend that those who are unvaccinated wear a mask.

Will my child be required to get the COVID-19 vaccine in order to attend school?

- No. The COVID-19 vaccine is not listed on the School Required Vaccination List. For more information, please see: School Required Vaccines for Parents by MDHHS

Will contract tracing continue?

- Schools are required to report communicable diseases to their local health department within 24 hours. Positive or probable COVID-19 cases will be reported to Ottawa County Health Department as required by law.

Will WMAAA quarantine students?

- We will partner with Public Health, but all quarantines will be issued by the student's resident health department.

Will student athletes need to be tested for COVID-19 to participate?

- No, not at this time. MDHHS and MHSAA lifted all requirements for student testing as of June 22, 2021.

When should I stay home?

- Students, staff, parents, and community members who have symptoms of COVID or have been ordered to quarantine or isolate by the health department should not enter the school building.

Information as of July 29, 2021

West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics

COVID-19 Guidelines, Fall 2021

West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics presents the following guidelines for returning to school on Tuesday, Aug 31, 2021 for grades Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. These procedures were guided by communication and data from the Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and the Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC). These guidelines are subject to shift based on changes within the district and Ottawa County.

1. School will operate as before within the classrooms, lunchrooms, passing hallways, common areas, and on playgrounds.
2. Masking is optional within school buildings, including classrooms, hallways and offices. The school supports staff and parents in making their own determination.
3. Physical distancing will be supported when possible.
4. The school will continue established cleaning and disinfecting protocols.
5. Personal hygiene best practices are recommended throughout the school including frequent handwashing, covering of coughs and sneezes, and access to hand sanitizer both inside and outside of the classrooms.
6. It is encouraged that families monitor their health and be alert for symptoms of any illness and to stay home if sick.
7. There will be no systematic COVID-19 testing for students or staff.
8. Individuals testing positive for COVID-19 are required to quarantine for 10 days.
9. Contact tracing and quarantine:
    - Contact tracing will continue.
    - Close contacts will be notified and parents can determine if quarantine is necessary.
    - Household and outbreak close contacts (as defined by the CDC) will be required by OCDPH to quarantine for 10 days.
10. COVID-19 cases throughout the school will continue to be shared on the website, www.westmichiganacademy.org.

2021-2022 School Calendar

WEST MICHIGAN Academy of Arts & Academics

17350 Hazel St
Spring Lake, MI 49456
616-844-9961

Aug 25-26	Staff PD: No School for Students
Aug 31	First Day of School - Half Day
Sep 3-6	Labor Day Weekend
Oct 6	Count Day
Oct 13	Half Day for Students; PM Conferences
Oct 14	Staff PD; No School for Students
Oct 15	No School for Students
Oct 29	Half Day for Students and Staff
Nov 8	2nd Quarter Begins
Nov 24-26	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 17	Half Day for Students
Dec 20-31	Winter Break
Jan 21	Staff PD; No School for Students
Jan 24	3rd Quarter Begins
Feb 9	Count Day
Feb 17	Staff PD; No School for Students
Feb 18-21	Mid-Winter Break
Mar 9	Half Day for Students; PM Conferences
Mar 10	Staff PD; No School for Students
Mar 11	No School for Students
Apr 1-8	Spring Break
Apr 11	4th Quarter Begins
May 30	Memorial Day
June 9	Half Day for Staff and Students
June 10	Last Day of School - Half Day

Staff Full Day PD; No School for Students
Half Day 11:30 Dismissal
No School for Students; No Staff
New Quarter Begins

Quarters
Q1 8/31 - 11/5
Q2 11/8 - 1/21
Q3 1/24 - 4/8
Q4 4/11 - 6/10

August 2021

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29	30	31				

September 2021

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October 2021

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31						

November 2021

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December 2021

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February 2022

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March 2022

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April 2022

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May 2022

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June 2022

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July 2022

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31						

PLAYGROUND

Mosaic Tile Project

A Colorful Collaboration for Families and our Local Community...WMAAA is happy to announce the Mosaic Tile Project playground fundraiser! This interactive art project is a hands-on activity that will be a colorful collaboration for all who use the playground to enjoy. This all-inclusive art event allows for the entire community to get involved and create a beautiful display of art! Paint on it, color on it, use markers, embellish it, do whatever you would like to do as long as it does not change the size of the square tile, and it is a family-friendly visual that is sturdy for outside display. Keep art work on one side and include your name on the other so that we can display to recognize all donors!

4x4 Tiles - $15 each
8x8 Tiles - $50 each (or request 4 4x4 tiles)
12x12 Tiles - $100 each (or request 9 4x4 tiles)

Click Here to Request Tiles Today

Requested tiles will be available for pick up starting July 19th.
Payment (cash or check only) due at pick up.
Completed tiles can be returned to the school.
Only tiles purchased from the school will be put on display.

FUNDRAISER

WEST MICHIGAN Academy of Arts & Academics + MIDSTATES RECREATION Design. Build. Play.