



WHITNEY HIGH SCHOOL

Find Purpose. Find Passion. Find You.

Justin Cutts
Principal

Jeff Dietrich
Assistant Principal

Jennifer Hanks
Assistant Principal

Jason Feuerbach
Assistant Principal

July 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is with a great deal of excitement that we welcome you to the new school year and what we hope will be somewhat of a return to normalcy! For those who have students at our high school for the first time, welcome to the Wildcat family. For those of you with returning students, welcome back. If you're like me I'm sure you are wondering how Summer has flown by so fast. To kick off this year, I would like to share with you our goals for our staff and students during the 2021-22 school year and how you can help us achieve them:

Culture - A top priority at Whitney is creating a place where our students enjoy coming every day: A school that they feel connected to and one where they have adults who know their story and see them as people first. Research shows that students who are connected to their school are less likely to skip school or be involved in fighting, bullying, and vandalism. Additionally, these students are more likely to succeed academically and graduate. We will be working hard this year to create events and promote programs that appeal to the diverse group of students that we have on our campus. We have a variety of clubs, sports, and extra-curricular events to join and attend throughout the year. Please encourage your student to attend our events and join a club, sport, or other school activity or program. If they look around and see a void, we hope that you would encourage them to help fill it. Our best programs are those that are student-driven.

- **WOW Week 2021 is coming!** Welcome Our Wildcats is back this year and we couldn't be more excited as we begin to plan the school wide events and activities! WOW Week will be August 11th-13th and **NO BACKPACKS REQUIRED** during this week long event that includes a variety of activities for staff and students as we reconnect and build stronger relationships as a school community. Details regarding bell schedules for those 3 days will be coming out soon. In order for WOW Week to be successful, we need the help of our community to get the supplies and resources that we need. Please consider donating by going to this [LINK: https://bit.ly/WOWWeek](https://bit.ly/WOWWeek) We thank you in advance for your support!

Post COVID Safety and Wellness - The events of the past year and a half have had a different impact on each individual student at Whitney High School. COVID protocols have kept us safe but have also hindered our learning environment and made it difficult for students to reach their full potential. While we will continue to take safety guidance from the CDPH and our school board, our staff is committed to creating a positive learning environment for all of our students. Additionally, we know that many students face mental health issues that affect their learning. Our counseling staff, along with our other mental health specialists on campus, are here to assist students with any barriers they are facing. We ask that you encourage your student to communicate with us regarding school safety and mental health concerns. If you have a concern, please be sure to do the same. We will work hard to provide whatever resources we can to assist. Please note that all Covid guidelines are determined by the district and *not* Whitney High School. You will receive information directly from the district as soon as any information becomes available.



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Curriculum and Instruction - We know the events over the last 18 months have created situations of Learning Loss in our students. Our teachers and support staff are passionate about education and helping students succeed. They are committed to addressing learning recovery in the classroom this year and as always finding new ways to engage students. We are also offering several classes and programs to support students who have struggled during COVID and are trying to catch up. We are fortunate that our grading system is set up to ensure that students master essential skills and not just the bare minimum to receive a grade. Please encourage your students to communicate regularly with their instructors, utilize their intervention time, and/or our homework club after school. Regularly check Schoology to monitor your student's progress throughout the year. If you don't have a Schoology login, contact us and we will assist you. Finally, please keep in mind that learning is a journey and our system is built around the idea of essential skill mastery and that can take more than one opportunity.

Equity & Access - As I mentioned earlier, we recognize that our students come from diverse backgrounds. Our staff and our students will have conversations this year about the diversity on our campus and what it means to appreciate and embrace that diversity. Additionally, we will continue to actively look for ways to provide access for students to achieve academic success where roadblocks once existed. Our goal is to make sure that all students are college and/or career ready. This school year you will hear me talk about students completing their A-G requirements and why this is so important, taking one of our Sierra College Dual Enrollment courses and/or completing a CTE Pathway. By encouraging our students to complete one of these options, we can ensure that every student who leaves Whitney is prepared for whatever path they choose and that they reach heights they may not have thought possible.

Through each of these four goals there are many exciting things that we will be doing this year to try and achieve them. We appreciate the trust you put in us to prepare your child for the "real world" and we want you to know we take that responsibility seriously. We aren't perfect but please know we have the best intent whenever we work with your students. We encourage you to provide us with feedback and we are open to any suggestions that you may have.

The rest of this letter includes important details regarding Back to School information and procedures. The traditional "Summer Mailer" documents are available on our [website](#). In addition, paper copies are available in our school office:

- [Whitney High School Student Handbook](#)
- [Odd/Even Day Calendar](#) (odd days are periods 1, 3, 5, 7 and even days are periods 2, 4, 6, 8)
- Bell Schedule (specific start and end times for each period are still pending until 8/3). However:
 - School starts at 7:45 and ends at 2:40 pm.
 - We have 2 lunch periods based on 3rd block class
- [Registration Day Form](#)
 - Order form for ASB card, PE clothes, yearbook, class contributions)
- [ASB Card and Parking Flyer](#)
- [RUSD Student Calendar](#)

- [Picture Day](#) (During Check-In Days on 8/3, 8/4, 8/5, and 8/9)



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- Ordering information is online at my.lifetouch.com
- Picture Day ID: EVTW8Mr7P
- A make-up opportunity will be available TBD
- [Campus Map](#) and [Campus Map with Drop Off Zones](#)
- [Dress Code](#)

General Information

For all parents, but especially freshman parents, please keep your student's teacher's email addresses handy. If you have a concern or just a question, email a member of the staff assigned to your student. General questions can be answered by our front office clerks and they can guide you to the correct staff person if they are unable to assist. If you have trouble accessing grades online, they can walk you through setting up your Schoology account for viewing your student's grades and assignments.

Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures

Another routine that all parents, especially first time Whitney families, need to know or remember involves drop off and pick up areas. In front of the administration building and all along the front curb is a loading zone and NOT a parking zone. Do not park and wait in visitor parking, numbered spots or handicap spots. To help the flow in front of the school, traffic is ONE WAY headed North toward Lincoln between 7:00 am and 8:00 am and again between 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm. If you can, it is best to avoid drop off or pick up in front of the school. Please see [the school map](#) for recommended drop off and pick up locations. You may park in staff parking lots where slots are available to drop off or pick up students.

Dress Code

Another important policy to remember is we **do** have a dress code at WHS. While the fashion industry may not help our school, parents can! Please review the [dress code](#) with your student. If your student's attire is not in compliance, just say "no" at home before they leave for school. Please don't say "Wear that if you insist, but don't be surprised if you get in trouble." Some get caught; some don't. It's easier to catch them at home. Without your help, we are outnumbered 2000 to 100 making enforcement a challenge.

Parent Club

One of the many things that make Whitney a great place is its parent support. One way to support the school is by joining the Whitney Parent Teacher (PTC) Club. This group runs annual fundraisers, serves appreciation lunches for staff, and works to fulfill teacher and department "wish lists." They have become part of the fabric of our site, and we encourage you to join this group. Please visit the Parent Teacher Club page on our website for more information and consider signing up during their Fall membership drive.

Back to School Night

Please be sure to attend Back-to-School Night on August 23rd. Additional details regarding Back to School Night and the evening's schedule will be emailed in early August.

Administration Team/Counselors



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Your administration team and counselors will be divided this way for the 2021-22 school year (assigned by student's last name):

Administrators:

Mrs. Jennifer Hanks: A-H
Mr. Jeff Dietrich: I-R
Mr. Jason Feuerbach: S-Z

Counselors:

Mr. Mac Blate: A-D
Mrs. Katherine Carlson: E-K
Mrs. Roisin LeRoy: L-Q
Mr. Pat Floyd: R-Z

While everyone is here to help assist you, targeting the administrator and/or counselor for your student's "alpha" (by last name) will expedite your requests. All staff emails are first initial and full last name @rocklinusd.org.

Wildcat Check-In Days

All students are required to attend Wildcat Check-In Days during their designated date and time listed below.

August 3, 8:00 am - 12 pm. Seniors

August 4, 8:00 am - 12 pm. Juniors

August 5, 8:00 am - 12 pm. Sophomores

August 9

Freshman Orientation with our student Boom Crew leaders

8:00 - Freshman Check-In in Large Gym

8:30 - 9:30 - Optional New or Freshman Parent/Guardian Orientation in Theater

8:30 - 12:00 - Orientation (campus wide)

12:30 - 3:00 pm - Schedule corrections in the Counseling Department

During Wildcat Check-In Days, students will be able to:

- Take their student ID picture (in the cafeteria)
 - Make sure that [dress code](#) is followed!
- Purchase ASB cards (in the student store)
- Pay fees/fines (in the student store)
- Order yearbooks (in the student store)
- Return library books/other materials to the library (in the library)
- Address class schedule questions and/or corrections (in the small gym)

Student schedules will be available in the Aeries Parent Portal beginning **August 2nd after 3 pm.** **Schedules will only be viewable after parents/guardians have completed the [data confirmation process.](#)** Student schedule correction requests can be addressed during students' designated days/times during the Wildcat Check-In Days. Schedule changes are only for corrections/errors.

Parking Permits

On-campus parking permits for Juniors/Seniors ONLY will be available for purchase on August 5th, 1-3 pm., in the student store until sold out. Students must bring their driver's license and registration to purchase a parking permit.



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Deliveries at School

Due to the increase in items being dropped off at the front office for students we want to remind everyone of the expectations and procedures:

- Food/items (ie. homework) delivered to WHS for students to pick up is discouraged as it is disruptive to our staff and students in class. However, if items are dropped off, students will not be called out of class to receive lunch, lunch money or other items (i.e. homework), nor will it be delivered. Students are expected to pick up items between classes. Releasing students from class to pick up homework is up to the discretion of the teachers.
- Food delivered from outside food sources (i.e. Pizza delivery, DoorDash, Grubhub, etc.) will **not** be accepted for students under any circumstances and delivery drivers will be sent away with the food.
- We do not have a fridge/freezer for food items dropped off.
- Once an item is dropped off it is the responsibility of the student to retrieve the item and we hold no responsibility if something happens to the item before the student is able to retrieve it.

School meals are FREE again this year for ALL students. All that is required is a student ID card.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) - Chromebooks at Whitney

At Whitney High School, **students are able to bring their own laptop/chromebook/tablet to school for educational use.**

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and please consult our website throughout the year for important dates. Your first important date is the start of school, 7:45 am on August 11, 2021.

I look forward to seeing you on Back-to-School Night, August 23, 2021.

Sincerely,

Justin Cutts
Principal
Whitney High School