

School Administration

Sarah Olson, Principal
Marianne Goularte, Assistant Principal
Nicole Aguiar, Learning Director

School Staff

Amanda Henry, Office Manager
Katie Crawford, Secretary
Cheri Searl, Secretary
Elaine Phe, Secretary
Carmen Rivas, Kindergarten Teacher
Alexandra Korin Lawson, Kindergarten Teacher
Cristy Hansen, 1st Grade Teacher
Nicole Sousa, 1st Grade Teacher
Patty Fischer, 2nd Grade Teacher
Michelle Lewis, 2nd Grade Teacher
Kayla Acierto, 3rd Grade Teacher
Amanda Crawford, 3rd Grade Teacher
Rebecca Davenport, 4th Grade Teacher
Monica Woods, 4th Grade Teacher
Lynae DeGravelles, 5th Grade Teacher
Amy Robbins, 5th Grade Teacher
Kim Bertolotti, Learning Center Specialist
Kathie Knudsen, MS Language Arts Teacher
Tara Younker, MS Language Arts Teacher
Kenneth Sanders, MS Social Studies Teacher
Ashlynn Walker, MS Math Teacher
Autumn Sherwood, MS Science Teacher
Claudette Casillas, MS Spanish Teacher
Lauren Moraca, MS Technology Teacher
Monique Newton, Dance/Physical Education Teacher
Ashlee Sloan, Art Teacher
Marcos Rivera, Music Teacher
Gail Benge, Drama Teacher
Chris Caulkins, Physical Education Teacher
Briona Mendes, Library Media Clerk
Priscilla Ortega, Instructional Paraprofessional
Berenice Cobb, Instructional Paraprofessional
Amelia Corrales, Instructional Paraprofessional
Rita Hernandez, Instructional Paraprofessional

TBD, Instructional Paraprofessional
Maria Haro Veloz, Instructional Paraprofessional
Ruby Jimenez, Instructional Paraprofessional
Melissa Hendrix, Student Supervision Assistant
Mary Lou Fletcher, Student Supervision Assistant
Lisa Watts, Student Supervision Assistant
Tiffany Boyd, Student Supervision Assistant
Carly Stone, Speech Pathologist
Angelica Lopez, School Psychologist
Dolly Anderson, Student Support Specialist
Crystal Gonzalez, Social Skills Facilitator
Sadie Sardia, School Nurse
Christina Rogers, Health Clerk
Louie Thomas, Campus Supervisor
Jose Diaz, Head Custodian
Roger Alvarez, Custodian
Amed Cazarez, Custodian
Shannon Heintz, Cafeteria Manager
Martha Leon, Cafeteria Clerk

Whitmore Charter School of the Arts and Technology



Student Handbook

2020-2021

3435 Don Pedro

Ceres, CA 95307

209.556.1610

<http://cereswcs.sharpschool.net/>

District Information
Ceres Unified School District

2503 Lawrence Street
Ceres, CA 95307
209.556.1500
www.ceres.k12.ca.us

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Mike Welsh, President
Betty Davis, Clerk
Valli Wigt, Board Member
Lourdes Perez, Board Member
Faye Lane, Board Member
Hugo Molina, Board Member
Brian de la Porte, Board Member



District Administration

Scott Siegel, Ed.D., Superintendent
Denise Wickham, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent, Personnel
Amy Peterman, Ed.D Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum
Dan Pangrazio, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Jay Simmonds, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Whitmore Charter Students and Families, On behalf of the Whitmore Charter Staff, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning families to the WCSAT community. It is our hope that this year will be the best ever for your child, filled with academic success and discovery.

As we open our doors to the 2020-2021 school year, the core belief of our staff has not changed. We believe that all children are special and capable of learning. The goal of our school is for every child to be successful, learning in a respectful, safe environment. The talented and passionate staff of WCSAT has been busy planning a year that opens the door to exciting learning opportunities while building collaborative relationships with our great families. We are looking forward to the year ahead, and are so glad that you chose WCSAT as your "home".

By working as a team with you, we will be able to offer the best to our children. Our school success wouldn't happen without you! Volunteering at the school is a wonderful way to get involved. Working together, we can help each individual child strive for excellence and help to develop positive self-esteem.

We know that our communication with families plays a vital role in the success of our students. Each student will have a welcome packet on the first day of school which will include the school calendar and important classroom information. Please acquaint yourself with the information found in the packet. This handbook will provide more information about our school's mission, awards, discipline, communications, curriculum, grading, as well as motivational plans and health and safety guidelines. In September, our monthly newsletter, the Paw Print, will be posted on ParentSquare. They will be full of interesting items, school activities, and upcoming events.

With all of this in mind, I want to welcome you again to another year of discovery and the unveiling of incredible potential. We are truly excited for this new year and look forward to working with you. If you ever have any concerns, questions, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to call me at (209) 556-1610.

Sarah Olson, Principal

Mission Statement

Our Mission

We are committed to the support of families and students in meeting rigorous academic standards, to promoting experiential, life-long learning skills, and to building a unique learning community which recognizes that parental involvement and partnership in education are critical for student success.

Our Goal

Provide all students with a challenging, technology and arts infused curriculum which emphasizes critical thinking skills and practical applications through student-centered instructional delivery methods that engage the mind and meet the unique learning needs of individual students. We are committed to promoting academic excellence, accountability, character development, and the personal responsibility of each student for their own education. Graduates of the Whitmore Charter School of Technology are prepared to enter the 21st Century as self-motivated, independent, critical thinkers and decision makers who understand how to use technology as a valuable tool for learning, creativity and productivity, and who recognize that education is a life-long process.

WCS School Site Council

The Whitmore Charter School Site Council, which is made up of parents and staff, meets bimonthly at 3:15 p.m. on the WCSAT campus. Parents, teachers, and community members are encouraged to attend. SSC meeting schedules, minutes, and upcoming agendas are available in the school office. Please feel free to share any questions or items of interest with the School Site Council members.

WCS Booster Club

The Whitmore Charter Schools Booster Club meets monthly in the WCSAT Staff Room, unless otherwise arranged. The focus of the Booster Club is to support WCSAT in its commitment to providing quality educational experiences for all students. All WCSAT parents are encouraged to join and participate!! Children are welcome.



CUSD Life Skills for School/Work Success

RESPECT	To show regard for self and others.
RESPONSIBILITY	To be accountable for one's actions and to follow through on tasks.
HONESTY	To be truthful and fair in dealing with others.
INTEGRITY	To conduct oneself according to a sense of what is right and wrong.
COOPERATION	To work with others towards a common goal or purpose.
EFFORT	To be willing to work one's hardest.
WORK ETHIC	To understand the importance of doing one's best.
PERSEVERANCE	To continue in spite of difficulties.
COMMON SENSE	To use good judgment.
ORGANIZATION	Plan, arrange and implement in an orderly manner.
PROMPTNESS	To be on time.
COMMITMENT	To devote oneself to completing a task.

Visitors, Chaperones and Parent Volunteers

All visitors and volunteers must sign in at the office and take a visitors pass before coming on campus. We encourage volunteers in the classroom and we hope you will set aside some time during the year to support your child's classroom teacher. Visitors, chaperones, and volunteers on campus must observe the following procedures:

1. Visitor or Parent Observer: *Check in and out of the office. We use the RAPTOR program to check visitors in and out. A visitor nametag will be provided prior to visiting the campus.*
2. Volunteer working with students under direct teacher supervision and field trip chaperone; *Volunteer Assistance Program Application, TB clearance, check in and out at the office (RAPTOR).*
3. Volunteer working with students without teacher supervision: *Fingerprints, TB clearance, activity plan approved by principal, sign in and out at the office (RAPTOR).*

Please note: A TB Test is required for **all** school volunteers. These may be obtained through the District Office on specific dates. Please call the school for more information. In order to ensure that your time with the class is maximized, please observe the following:

- Younger children **should not** accompany you during your volunteer time.

- **All cell phones must be turned off, or put on "meeting mode" when in the classroom.**
- Animals should not be in the classroom unless prior arrangements have been made.

Please note that additional information and guidelines will be available.

A Word to Students

It is important that every child has the opportunity to achieve to his or her greatest potential. School is a place to belong, to make and keep friends, and to learn about yourself and others. School is a place where all persons should feel safe. For this to happen, our school will not allow threats of any kind. This includes put-downs, racial slurs, and name calling. These are words used to pick on, make fun of, threaten, harass, insult, hurt, or leave out another person because of their color, religion, race, disability, national origin, or ancestry.

Being different is what makes you unique. Always be careful of what you say, because no one wants his or her feelings hurt. It is hard to take back mean, hurtful, or embarrassing words or actions. All students deserve to be respected. Saying that you are "just kidding" or "playing around" will not excuse you. All students at WCSAT are responsible for their own actions. Make sure that you make right decisions, even if it means that your friends do not agree with you. Making a right decision takes courage but helps you to establish a lifelong habit of making right decisions. And...you never know who is watching you, who admires you, and who wants to be just like you. Be a true leader...make kind, right decisions.

All school staff will take acts or rumors of violence, bias, or harassment seriously and appropriate discipline will be administered. We are dedicated to providing a safe, healthy environment for all students, and will be actively promoting tolerance and respect in every aspect of school life.

Transportation and Field Trips

Home to school transportation is not provided by Whitmore Charter Schools. Each family is responsible to provide transportation for their children to and from school each day, to be on time for the start of school, and to be punctual in picking up their children at the end of the school day.

When appropriate, school buses will be used for field trips. Parental consent forms are required of all students attending school-sponsored field trips, and all school rules apply while on field trips. In most cases, parents may participate as chaperones on field trips, but may not transport children separately on the trip without prior school approval.

Regular Daily Schedule

Grades K-5

8:00 A.M. School Begins
9:30 A.M. Morning Recess (K)
9:35 A.M. Morning Recess (1-2)
10:00 A.M. Morning Recess (3-5)
10:50 A.M. Kinder Lunch
11:05 A.M. 1st-3rd Grade Lunch
11:20 A.M. 4th-5th Grade Lunch
1:30 P.M. Afternoon Recess (K)
1:45 P.M. Afternoon Recess (1-2)
1:55 P.M. Afternoon Recess (3-5)
3:00 P.M. Dismissal

Grades 6-8

8:00 A.M. Homeroom
8:57 A.M. Block 2
9:50 A.M. MS Break
10:00 A.M. Block 3
10:45 A.M. Block 4
11:35 A.M. MS Lunch
12:23 P.M. Block 5
1:16 P.M. Block 6
2:09 P.M. Block 7
3:00 P.M. Dismissal

Student Arrival/Pickup Times

Please note that students **may not be on campus before 7:30 a.m.**

There is no supervision prior to that time. Students **must be picked up by 3:00 pm** (or within 15 minutes of dismissal) unless they are participating in a school sponsored activity. *Please do not park by red curbs or in areas marked "No Parking", this includes residential and private property that surrounds the school.*

WCSAT uses a minimum day schedule for **parent/teacher conference days**. Parent Conferences are scheduled for **October 20th - October 23rd in the Fall and April 15th - 16th in the Spring**. On these days, students will be dismissed at **12:45 p.m. and must be picked up at dismissal or attend the ASES program**. Students will follow a regular lunch schedule on these days. We will also have **ten (10) early release days** this year with a **dismissal time of 2:05**. Please check the school calendar for this year's minimum and early release days. This will allow you to have sufficient time to make prior child care arrangements if you will be unable to pick up your child on time.

Cafeteria

Students may purchase hot lunch in the cafeteria. Parents are encouraged to pay for lunches a week or a month in advance, to avoid

accumulating unpaid cafeteria balances. Please help us avoid this very difficult situation by sending money for lunch each day or week. Lunches are to be paid for **before school** in the cafeteria. Students will be issued a student identification number, and are responsible for memorizing this code.

Prices

Daily Student Breakfast: \$1.75

Daily Student Lunch for K-5 is \$2.60 and \$3.10 for grades 6-8.

Milk may be purchased by students bringing their own lunch for \$0.50.

Free/Reduced Lunch Applications are available from the school office.

We ask that all families complete an application, whether or not you will be participating in this program, as it helps our school with funding in many other areas as well.

Debt Collection

Current-year balance: Billing is sent/mailed home weekly. Phone calls are made from the Child Nutrition office on high balances (over \$50).

Unrecovered/Delinquent Debt: School will make calls home to recover previous year's debt.

Non-discrimination for failure to pay, including protection from overt identification: Regardless of meal status, students are not served an alternative meal (something different from what is on the menu).

Annual Notifications to Parents/Guardians

Annual mailing: Sent out to households via mass mailing along with application packets.

Location on website: Currently found on the district website under the Child Nutrition tab.

Student Handbooks: Policy information will be provided in student handbooks issued by school site at the beginning of the 20-21 school year.

Cafeteria Rules

1. Clean up after yourself
2. Show proper manners
3. Stay seated until being dismissed
4. Stand quietly in line
5. Walk at all times
6. Make room for others to be seated
7. Be respectful and help others when needed

Please note: Parents may not eat their children's food, or take it from the cafeteria.

Energy drinks and soda are not allowed.

Nutritious Snacks

During first recess, students may eat snacks brought from home.

1. Only nutritious snacks are allowed (**no candy, energy drinks, and sodas, please.**)
2. Eat snacks only in designated areas.
3. Clean up all messes before going to play
4. Do not share snacks.

Nutritious snacks include fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, trail mix, and shelled nuts. Sugary foods and empty calorie/greasy foods (chips) are not healthy and do not constitute a nutritious snack.

Dress Code

Dress and Grooming

The parents/guardians of the Ceres Unified School District are charged with the responsibility of dressing their children in a manner appropriate for a school setting. In addition, under normal circumstances, no student will be sent to school wearing any kind of clothing, costume, and/or hair style which will tend to interrupt, disturb, or interfere with the normal educational program being carried on, either on the campus or in the classroom, or negatively affect the health and safety of individuals. The students must dress in such a manner that demonstrates good taste. Explicit or implied profanities and/or obscenities are not acceptable. Any items of clothing, jewelry, foot gear, or head gear which would be injurious or potentially disruptive to the normal educational program or to any person or school district property are prohibited. (cf 6136 Gangs)

1. Hair nets or other types of gang related head coverings are not allowed.
2. All clothing, including jackets and shoes, with Old English style or other writings that may be determined to be gang related are not allowed.
3. Accessories, such as jewelry, belts, bandanas, purses, and sunglasses with logos, insignias, color, or writings depicting gang related activities are not allowed.
4. Attire that is worn or altered in such a way as to identify students with gangs is not allowed. This includes, but is not limited to: sagging pants (pants must be waist-high and remain at the waist without the aid of a belt), unhemmed cut offs, cut off shorts with knee high socks, hanging belts, suspenders off the shoulders, gang related initials on belt buckles, unhemmed garments of any lengths, etc. are not allowed.

5. Pants must fit at the waist and not be more than one size too large or one size too small. If belts are worn, they must not be more than one size too large.
6. Attire which is sexually suggestive or extremely brief is not allowed. This includes, but is not limited to: **low-cut garments, strapless or off the shoulder tops, racer back tanks, shoulder straps less than 2 inches wide, bare midriffs, tank tops or muscle shirts, undershirts, fish net tops, shorts which are shorter than finger-tip length, dresses or skirts which are shorter than three inches above the knee or that do not cover undergarments.**
7. Attire that advocates or advertises any type of alcohol, drugs, tobacco or acts which are illegal, violent, obscene, or hazardous to one's health is not allowed.
8. Shoes must be worn at all times. Thong-styled shoes, socks, or sock-like footwear and slippers are not safe or appropriate for school and are not allowed. **Students must wear tennis shoes or similar footwear for P.E. activities.** Sandals are generally not appropriate for P.E. and backless shoes are not to be worn by students on campus at any time.
9. Clothing, jewelry, and other accessories, which present a safety hazard to the wearer or others are not allowed.
10. Make-up must be age appropriate. In grades K-6, make-up is not allowed.
11. In accordance with Educational Code 35183.5 hats or other head coverings may be worn at school. Such hats or head coverings must be school appropriate and follow the various guidelines enumerated in this policy.
12. Sunglasses may not be worn inside any school buildings.
13. No attire with writing, graphics, or logos that are offensive or sexually suggestive, or that communicate negative or disrespectful attitudes may be worn to school, or to any school function. Administrative discretion will be used to determine whether specific articles of clothing are in violation of this standard.

Consequences for Dress Code Violations

Dress Code Violation (E.C. 48900[k])

First Offense - Warning, possible parent contact, change attire

Second Offense – Alternative disciplinary action, parent contacted, change attire, possible suspension.

Third Offense – Alternative disciplinary action, parent contacted, change attire, possible suspension.

Positive Behavior Intervention System

The staff at Whitmore has and will continue to participate in the HERO program. HERO encourages positive student behavior choices. When students demonstrate HERO behaviors, they may earn PACK points toward exciting incentives. PACK is the acronym Whitmore created which stands for Pride, Achievement, Cooperation, and Kindness. Parents and students are able to view accumulated student points once they have created an account.

School Wide Discipline Procedures

Whitmore Charter School has a school-wide discipline policy that supports each teacher's classroom plan and provides a safe and orderly environment within which students can study, learn and grow. We expect proper conduct from all students. If your child has any problems whatsoever, you or your child should contact a school staff member so that we may help. We appreciate the cooperation and support of parents during the often difficult process of student discipline. A positive and effective home/school partnership helps bring about the best possible outcome for everyone involved.

The CUSD Board-approved conduct Codes for grades K-6 and 7-12 serve as the basis for the WCSAT school-wide rules, as listed below. Whenever a student is having difficulty following school or classroom rules, parents will be contacted. This contact ensures that together we can help our students become successful and productive.

School Rules

1. Treat people and property with respect.
2. Follow directions from staff the first time given.
3. Stay in designated areas.
4. Use equipment properly and safely.
5. Use appropriate school language. Foul language, name calling, and putdowns are not allowed.
6. Do not use any contact that could hurt yourself or others.
7. Do not play in or around the restrooms, bicycle racks, school buildings, ramps, or trash enclosures.
8. Always walk on designated pathways. Running is only allowed on playgrounds and playing fields. Remember the rule: "Walk on White!"
9. Gum can be very messy and destructive on campus. **Students should not have gum at school.**

Cell Phones

The office phone is for emergency use ONLY. Students will not be called out of class to receive phone calls.

Please make all plans and arrangements before the start of school. Cell phones must be turned off during the school day. Students may use their cell phones outside of the school gates before or after school only. Phones out or on during the school day may be confiscated. Confiscated cell phones WILL NOT be returned to the student. A parent or guardian must come in to pick up the phone. Unclaimed phones will be disposed of at the end of the school year.

Cameras

Cameras, including cell phone cameras, are not allowed, and students taking pictures on campus will be subject to discipline. Cameras will be confiscated and will be released to a parent or guardian only.

Electronic Devices (E.C. 48901[5]), Electronic Devices (E.C. 51512)

First Offense - Warning, confiscation, parent notification

Second Offense – Alternative disciplinary action, confiscation, meeting with administrator.

Third Offense – Alternative disciplinary action, confiscation, possible suspension.

Consequences

Time-out: A student is placed in time out when that student has been a problem on the yard and needs immediate disciplinary action to reinforce a rule. Any student who leaves the timeout area without permission, refuses to do timeout, or is talking with other students in the timeout area may be given detention or possibly a suspension for defiance, depending on the severity of the behavior.

Alternative Disciplinary Action: Alternative disciplinary action will be issued to students who do not follow school rules. They include, but are not limited to, campus beautification, reflection sheets, classroom presentations, apology letters, written reports, meet with an administrator, lunchtime meetings, etc.

Detention: Detention is served after school from 3:05 to 3:35 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students who are to serve detention will report to Room 9 (HS office) immediately after school. **Three detentions in one month or repeated detentions on a month-to-month basis are an indicator of a habitual discipline problem, and parent contact may be made and suspension may be imposed.**

When issuing a detention, a minimum of one day from the offense will be given prior to the serving date to allow for parent notification and return of the detention slip.

Suspension from School: Suspensions from 1 to 5 days are issued for severe cases, especially Education Code violations. The Ceres Unified School District conduct code for Grades K-6, and Grades 7-12 provide detailed listings of violations and penalties.

Expulsions: Expulsions are considered in extreme discipline cases as outlined in the Education Code and the Ceres Unified School District Conduct Codes for Grades K-6, and Grades 7-12.

Classroom Discipline: Teachers will send home a copy of their classroom rules during or before the first week of school. Each teacher has developed a plan that works for him/her. While rules, consequences, and rewards vary from classroom to classroom, the basic premise is always the same: Every student deserves a quality educational experience, and no student has the right to prevent a teacher from teaching or students from learning.

Suspensions

The staff and administration of Whitmore Charter Schools will take appropriate disciplinary measures, including suspension or expulsion, when it is appropriate and in the best interests of the students involved and the other students in the school. The following behaviors may result in automatic suspension from school and could lead to expulsion:

Automatic Suspension Law (State Law 48900)

1. Physical injury to another person – actual or threatened*
2. Commission of obscene acts or engagement in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
3. Damage to, or theft of, school or private property.
4. Possession or sale of weapons.
5. Possession or sale of drugs, alcoholic beverages, or intoxicants.
6. Possession or use of tobacco.
7. Sexual harassment.
8. Possession of an imitation firearm.
9. Hate violence.
10. Harassment, threats, or intimidation.
11. Forgery.

*Retaliation may also result in suspension or expulsion.

Student Expectations Agreement

In order to provide an optimal learning environment for every student, WCSAT utilizes a ***Student Expectations Agreement*** which focuses on three areas of student conduct: ***Attendance, Academic Effort, and Behavior***. Every student and parent is required to read, agree to, and sign a copy of this agreement as a condition of enrollment at WCSAT. Violations of the standards in this agreement will result in a Notification of Concern (NOC). Attendance letters will be mailed home based on SARB criteria. NOC letters may be mailed home quarterly for academics and behavior.

MS Sports Policy

Students-athletes will abide to the CUSD and WCSAT Sports Policies at all times. Failure to do so may result in removal from the respective sport for the duration of the season. WCSAT Sports Policies will be distributed to student-athletes at the time the respective sport takes place.

Technology

Technology provides students with access to people and material from all over the world. We believe that information and interaction promotes educational excellence and is consistent with the goals of the school and the district. The Internet, however, does include some materials that are not appropriate for students. Every effort is taken to protect students from inappropriate materials, but it is impossible to completely protect students from materials that are not consistent with WCSAT and CUSD goals. Students will be using the Internet within educational activities, such as performing research, developing projects, and disseminating information. An “Acceptable Use Policy” is to be signed by each student upon registration. Students will not be allowed to use the Internet until the contract is signed. The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. **The privilege will be withdrawn if it is not used responsibly.**

Enrollment Lottery Procedures

An annual lottery for available Kindergarten spots for the following school year will be held in March. Sufficient public notice of the date, time, and location of the annual Kindergarten enrollment lottery will be made through an appropriate public venue. Applications received after the submission deadline for the annual Kindergarten enrollment lottery will be included in the next monthly lottery.

A monthly enrollment lottery for all grade levels will be held on the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. at the WCSAT office. If the first Tuesday of the month falls on a holiday or other non-work day, the lottery will be held on the next available Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. at the WCSAT office.

Each monthly lottery will apply to all applications for enrollment received subsequent to the previous lottery. The newly lotteried applications will then be added (in the order assigned by the lottery) to the end of the sequential list of previously lotteried applications for the appropriate grade level.

Each enrollment lottery at Whitmore Charter School is a three-stage lottery, with siblings of students who are currently enrolled at Whitmore Charter Schools having first priority, residents of Ceres Unified School District having second priority, and non-sibling/non-residents having final priority.

Any applicant may contact the Whitmore Charter School office to find out their position on the sequential list of applicants generated through the enrollment lottery procedure.

When Your Child is Absent

Whitmore Charter School is using a computerized attendance system which enables us to keep up-to-date, accurate records. Your assistance is needed if this program is to work efficiently.

1. Make every effort to have your child in school, on time, every day.
2. If your child is absent, contact the school by phone (556-1610) before 9:00 a.m. or send a note on his/her return.
3. If your child is going to be out for reasons other than illness (family emergency, trip, etc.) contact the school to arrange for independent study (see "Independent Study").

Reminders:

- A student will be marked truant if they are absent from school without a valid excuse for three or more days in one school year.
- A student will be marked truant if they are tardy in excess of 30 minutes on each of three(3) or more days in one school year.
 - Leaving 30 minutes early, unexcused, results in a reverse tardy.

Independent Study

When your child must be absent for reasons other than illness, such as family emergencies, trips, etc., arrangements can be made to complete studies through assigned work. Your child will be given credit for the days absent and the school will receive state funds. **Arrangements for Independent Study must be made with the teacher and an administrator at least two weeks in advance of the absence.** A meeting with an administrator must be held for I.S. approval. The I.S. Contract will be written for no less than 5 days, and no more than 10 school days. If a student is gone for longer than the duration of the contract, absences beyond the contract will be considered unexcused and the student may be dropped from enrollment.

Security Procedures

The following information is very important for the safety and security of your child while at school

Visitors: Adult volunteers and visitors must check in at the office (RAPTOR) prior to going to the classroom. When visitors come to the school for any reason, they are to check in at the office first. Parents must check students out through the office. They must have a picture ID, and his/her name must be on the student's enrollment card for the student to be released to them. If you send someone to pick up your child and his/her name is not on the card, the office will not release your child to that person. If someone other than the people listed is to pick up your child, advance arrangements will have to be made with the office. The office will issue a Student Checkout form for the classroom teacher. No child will be released directly from the classroom without the office form.

Library Services

Each student will be checking out books from the school library. Students are responsible for the materials that they check out. Books are to be returned promptly and in good condition. If a book is lost or damaged, it needs to be paid for before a student may check out any other materials. Students who owe the library fines or books will not be given their report card at the end of the year. Reading is an exciting adventure! Please do your part to make sure that books are returned for other students to enjoy.

Academic Intervention Program

Whitmore Charter Schools utilize promotion/retention criteria in compliance with the legal policies mandated by the California State Legislature. Students who do not meet these criteria are considered “at risk” for retention. Students must meet required levels of achievement in reading, writing, and mathematics, and must have satisfactory school attendance to qualify for promotion to the next grade level.

We strongly recommend that you contact your child’s teacher or an administrator about the Academic Intervention Program if your child is at risk for not moving on to the next grade. The objective of this program is to strengthen your child’s educational progress, giving him/her the opportunity to successfully complete each grade level. The Academic Intervention Program (AIP) consists of Academic Extended Day and Summer School. These programs are designed to give students who are below grade level the extra academic skills they need to be successful.

You will be notified if, or when, your child is placed on the AIP list. You will receive a letter telling you when and where your child is to take part in the Academic Extended Day and/or Summer School. The goal of the Academic Extended Day and Summer School programs is to improve your child’s academic skills so that he/she may return to the regular classroom more confident and secure. If you have questions, please feel free to call the AIP office at 556-1550.

Student Success Team

Whitmore Charter School of Arts and Technology has a Student Success Team, which consists of a variety of professionals from our school and district. Parents, teachers, and/or administration may refer students to the Student Success Team if any problems exist that interfere with the child’s learning. The team will make recommendations to help each student be successful. Students may be recommended for behavior, academic concerns, speech, language development, testing, resource, or any other concerns.

Learning Center

The Learning Center is designed to provide educational services for students of all grade levels who face specific learning challenges.

These services are provided during the regular school day, and students receive services for a length of time that is appropriate for their needs as determined by their IEP. The Learning Center team includes an Educational Specialist, an Instructional Paraprofessional, a Speech Pathologist, and a School Psychologist.

Retention Policy

The WCSAT promotion/retention criteria will be distributed to parents at the fall parent/teacher conferences. Students may be identified as “at risk” of retention based on prior year standardized test scores or other specific criteria as measured by the school. Students who are at risk of retention may earn points toward promotion through test scores, academic grades, consistent participation in the Academic Intervention Program, and excellent attendance at school. Parents of students to be retained will be notified of the retention by the end of the school year.

Promotion Requirements

Participation in the promotion ceremony is a privilege that will be extended to students who meet the following requirements:

- No more than seven (7) days of home suspension in the second semester
- No suspensions during the last twenty (20) school days
- Pay all obligations to the WCS and CUSD

Purchase of a promotion gown (for ceremony participation). The cost of the gown, 8th grade trip, and other related expenses are non-refundable, even if the student becomes ineligible to participate. *You may choose to borrow a promotion gown from the school if you choose not to purchase one.*

Bicycle Rules

Bicycles may be ridden to school. They must be kept in the bike racks in the fenced-off area of the school.

1. Bicycles should not be brought to school without locks.
2. Bicycles are prohibited on the playground.
3. Only one person may ride a bicycle at a time.
4. Bicycles must be walked on/off of the school grounds.
5. Students must follow California Law and wear a bicycle helmet.

Student Responsibility for Materials

At the beginning of the school year, students are issued books, Chromebooks and other materials and supplies. They must maintain these materials in good condition and return them when asked or else pay for any loss or damage. **Report cards and end of year activities will be held until all fees and fines are paid.**

Tobacco Free Zone

Ample evidence has demonstrated the health hazards associated with the use of tobacco products, including smoking and the breathing of second-hand smoke. Therefore, in accordance with state and federal law, as well as Ceres Unified School District policy, Whitmore Charter School prohibits the use of tobacco anywhere or anytime on school or district property.

Comprehensive Sexual Education

In accordance with Education Code section 51933, 51934, and 51938, students in grades 7-12 will receive comprehensive sexual health education and HIV/AIDS prevention education. This instruction will be provided by the classroom teacher. Please contact the teacher if you would like to preview the instructional materials and/or if you have questions about the instruction to be provided to students.

Personal Property

Whitmore Charter School and the Ceres Unified School District, its officers, agents or employees shall not be responsible, in any manner, for the loss, theft, damage, or destruction of any personal property brought on to school or District premises by students, for any reason whatsoever, including, but not limited to, a request by a staff member. Students who bring personal property on to school premises assume all risk of loss, theft, damage or destruction of the personal property which may occur. All bikes/scooters must be locked in the bike rack; they may not be kept in the office or in the classrooms. Skateboards may not be ridden on campus, or kept in students' possession during school hours.

Reporting to Parents

Report Cards will be sent home to parents at the end of each semester. In addition to these report cards, teachers will be issuing mid-semester progress reports to keep parents informed of their students' academic progress. Parent conference times are scheduled twice during the year: The weeks of October 20-23 and April 15-16. Parents with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact the teacher at any time during the school year.

Teachers will often phone home or send notes with good news, as well as during times when parent support is needed to solve a problem. We believe effective schools provide regular and frequent communication with the home. Our goal is to be the most effective school possible.

Child Care

The After School Education and Safety Program (ASES) is a program that is available to our students for after school care. This program is housed in the WCSAT multi-purpose room, and is prepared to serve our students from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Applications must be turned in for students to attend. For more information about this program, please call 556-1550 or contact the WCSAT office.



Helpful Phone Numbers

- City of Ceres Parks and Recreation 538-5782
- Ceres Youth Baseball 538-8326
- Ceres Youth Football 537-7523
- Ceres Youth Soccer 538-4717

Libraries

- Ceres-2250 Magnolia, Ceres 537-8938
- Stanislaus County – 15th and I, Modesto 558-7814

