



BRAVE THE FUTURE

A GUIDE TO YOUR WHETSTONE HIGH SCHOOL

WELCOME TO YOUR WHETSTONE HIGH SCHOOL...

WE OFFER:

- Strong academic courses, taught by experienced teachers,
- Early college options, including a dual-credit program with Columbus State Community College, AP courses and post-secondary enrollment options across a number of local universities and colleges,
- Foreign language programs that include Spanish, French, travel and the unique option of American Sign Language,
- Vibrant visual and performing arts programs,
- Champion athletic teams,
- A wide variety of clubs,
- Service opportunities to improve our community and our world.

At Whetstone we **Brave the Future**, ensuring our students are ready for college, work experiences, the military, or whatever they dream. Our mantra is: Whetstone Students Bring Responsibility, Ambition, Values, Energy and Service. At Whetstone High School we work everyday to grow, learn and be better—for our futures, for our families, for our community, and for our world.

This guide is intended to help you visualize your future at Whetstone High School. Learn more inside these pages about the courses offered, our faculty and staff, activities, parent and community support, and what other students experience at our school.

Whetstone High School is a neighborhood school providing a traditional high school experience in the heart of the Clintonville community. Whetstone has the broadest base of neighborhood and community involvement of any school in Columbus City.



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CUTTING EDGE ACADEMICS

An Overview

Whetstone is a comprehensive high school with college prep emphasis. The curriculum at Whetstone High School is diverse and comprehensive with course offerings ranging from those needed to earn a Columbus City Schools Diploma of Distinction or Certificate of Specialization, English Language Learner courses, and a range of special education courses.

- Many Advanced Placement classes are offered along with a wide variety of dual-enrollment College Credit Plus opportunities, located both at Whetstone and through our school at area college campuses.
- The broad programming at Whetstone, including courses such as American Sign Language, allows each student to reach their individual level of success.
- Whetstone is the only high school in the district that offers a Resource Room program for the Visually Impaired.

Each year, approximately 60% of Whetstone HS graduates seek additional formal education at a four-year college or university, a two-year institution, or a technical program. Approximately 50% of graduates acquire the CCS Certificate of College Preparation and 30% receive the Certificate of Specialization.

In recent years, Whetstone students have been accepted at a myriad of schools. **Just a few examples,** include: Cornell University, Brown University, The Ohio State University, Miami University of Ohio, Ohio University, The College of Wooster, University of Cincinnati, Indiana University, University of Alabama, University of Pittsburgh, New York University, Purdue University, Bowling Green State University, Mt. Carmel College of Nursing, Art Institute of Pittsburgh, Art Institute of Cleveland, Alabama A&M, North Carolina A&T, Notre Dame College, Colorado State University, Eastern Michigan University, Oregon State University, Allegheny College, the University of Southern California, Yale University, **and MORE.**

**Whetstone
students earn
an average of
\$4,000,000 in
scholarship
money each year.**



“

Being in college and looking back on my high school career, I view my experience at Whetstone very positively. While in high school I was able to play sports, participate in clubs, take college classes, and also gain invaluable experience about interacting with different groups of people. Some people come to college without ever having being challenged in their worldview or their opinions. I consider myself very lucky to have gone to Whetstone because outside the classroom I was learning to be a well rounded person.

—Colin Martinez, WHS Class of 2017

EARLY COLLEGE: BRAVE THE FUTURE NOW

At Whetstone High School, students can earn college credit at no cost to their families. Over 90 Whetstone students take college credits each year. The value of all courses combined is nearly \$400,000 annually.

All college courses fall under the State's **College Credit Plus** (CCP) program umbrella, which allows qualifying students to take college courses at area colleges/universities on the college or university campus or through embedded courses at Whetstone. CCP courses provide students dual credit (both high school and college credits). All CCP students must complete the Intent to Participate form by April 1 the year prior to taking College Credit Plus courses. Each university has specific application and testing requirements that students are responsible for meeting (deadlines are typically in the Spring of the prior school year). Students can take college courses in combination with high school courses, or exclusively through the college (should their course plan and the college allow). CCP offers great flexibility for our students who are ready for the extra challenge of college coursework! Whetstone and Columbus City Schools also provide the following CCP Opportunities:

Credits Count Program in Computer Science at Whetstone: The Credits Count program with Columbus State Community College offers a unique opportunity for Whetstone students to complete college coursework. The dual enrollment program, made possible by a gift from American Electric Power, allows students to graduate high school with up to 12 college credits in computer science.

Embedded Columbus State Courses at Whetstone: Columbus State also offers College Credit Plus courses held at Whetstone in English, Psychology, Sociology, U.S. History, and American Sign Language. (Students must meet CCP and CSCC requirements to participate)

Seniors-to-Sophomores: The Columbus City Schools Seniors-to-Sophomores Program allows high school seniors to take college courses full time as part of a supportive, structured cohort program. It is a cost-free option that may qualify students to have sophomore status in college after they graduate from high school. Locations include The Ohio State University, Otterbein, Columbus State Community College, Capital, and Franklin. (Note: this is NOT the only way for students to take college coursework full time, Seniors to Sophomores provides the supportive programming and more structured scheduling for students who may need it.)

Junior Jumpstart: A half-day version of the Seniors to Sophomores program that allows students to take a couple of specific Columbus State Community College courses in a structured cohort program as a Junior in high school. It does require an additional application.

In addition to the CCP program, Whetstone offers **Advanced Placement** (AP) courses in English Literature and Composition, Language and Composition, Biology, Chemistry, Calculus AB, American Government, Environmental Science, and Human Geography.

Whetstone also has the advantage and support of **I Know I Can**, a nonprofit dedicated to helping students reach and succeed in college. I Know I Can offers Blue Print College workshops to help students and families prepare for college admissions. I Know I Can also provides a full time college advisor dedicated to Whetstone students.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Whetstone High School offers three options for foreign language study:

- Spanish
 - With 329 million native speakers, Spanish ranks second worldwide in terms of how many people speak it as their first language.
 - Whetstone offers Spanish 1 to 5.
- French
 - Around the world 75 million people speak French, which is the 14th most commonly spoken language.
 - Whetstone offers French 1 to 5.
- American Sign Language
 - There are an estimated 250,000 to 500,000 speakers of American Sign Language. A significant portion of Americans (17%) experience some hearing loss, and learning American Sign Language offers our students many benefits.
 - In addition to being able to communicate with the deaf community, which is large and vibrant in Columbus, Ohio, our students can explore and understand this widely spoken language.
 - Our students have opportunities to sign in front of groups in our school and larger community.
 - Whetstone offers American Sign Language 1 to 3, as well as advanced courses through College Credit Plus in conjunction with Columbus State Community College.

English Language Learners

Whetstone High School offers cutting-edge services for qualifying English language learners no matter the needs of the student, ranging from beginner to advanced. We have a sheltered academic unit with teachers trained and licensed in Language Acquisition, as well as Social Studies, English Language Arts, Math and Science to assure that all students' needs are met. Whetstone has bilingual instructional assistants and offers in-house translation and parent communication services in Spanish. If you are looking for a full, comprehensive high school that will also provide services for all your language learning needs, look no further than Whetstone High School.

Options to Travel Abroad

Students who study French and Spanish have an opportunity to travel abroad during summer break. In 2012, French students travelled to France for ten days to see the Riviera, the Loire Valley, and Paris. In 2013, students visited Costa Rica. In 2015, students visited Barcelona, Spain. In the summer of 2016, students visited Paris, France, and in 2017 Whetstone students explored Peru. Costa Rica was the travel destination for 2019.

Language courses are offered at introductory and advanced levels, with College Credit Plus options for college credit.

HEADLINE: CAREER CENTER OPPORTUNITIES

Whetstone students have the opportunity to attend one of two Career Centers for part of the school day. Sophomores visit both Columbus Downtown High School and Fort Hayes Career Center. Interested students can apply to attend a career center during their junior and senior years. Whetstone's Career Center liaison works with students once they are admitted.

The career centers prepare students for in-demand careers in high-growth fields including construction, health care, media arts, performing arts, visual arts, transportation, cosmetology, information technology, culinary arts, public safety, education, and manufacturing.



“

Whetstone was not just a high school for me, it was a whole community filled with amazing students, teachers, parents, and staff. Whetstone is a great school with numerous opportunities, and opportunities are essential to our future. The opportunities we take shape us to who we are, and who we become, and I am saying this from experience. Walking into this school I was a huge introvert, very shy and quiet, and walking out I had become more confident, social, and a leader. The opportunities I took at Whetstone are what helped me become this way. I joined numerous clubs, became one of the captains of the varsity softball team, National Honor Society President, a Lift Crew leader, and part of the Principal Advisory Council. The Credit Counts program at Whetstone helped ignite my interest in the Computer Science field and gave me the chance to partake in cool projects like building a 3d printer and hack-a-thons. Because of the opportunities that were available to me, I got a full ride to college and am working as a software developer contractor while still in school. I couldn't have done it without the support and help from my counselors, friends, coaches, and teachers.

—Rahma Abdullahi, WHS Class of 2017

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NAVIGATING HIGH SCHOOL: SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Whetstone Counselors are here to help you navigate academics and other aspects of high school. You will be assigned a counselor according to your last name so that you have that same counselor throughout your years at Whetstone.

School Counselors are licensed by the Ohio Department of Education in School Counseling, have completed a Master's Degree in Counseling, adhere to the ASCA code of ethics, and are equipped to promote student success, wellness, and growth in three domains: Academics, Emotional/Social Wellness/Mental Health, and College/Career Readiness. In alignment with the ASCA National Model for a Comprehensive School Counseling Program, counselors work with students, their families, school faculty and staff, community members and organizations, and other stakeholders to serve all students and expand access to opportunities.

A message from the WHS counseling team: We meet with our students in one-on-one (individual counseling), small group, and classroom settings, and are available for consultation and collaboration with families, community members/organizations, and school staff. We want to see all students to achieve their full potential and to set them on a trajectory for life-long success by empowering students to overcome barriers to their success, fostering a sense of belonging and value, and equipping students to reach and expand their potential, ready to lead a full and engaged life in a diverse world.



“

WHS is home to a multitude of diverse groups representing nations, religions, classes and cultures from all over the world. Growing up, I battled many disparities, one being neighborhood violence. WHS served as a place of refuge for its diverse students. Several of my teachers/coaches mentored and guided me through high school. Freshmen year, my football coach said, “What you do these next 4 years, will have a big impact on the following 40 years after school.” That stuck with me. Now, working for the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, I connect our community through recreational resources that enhance quality of life. Best job in the world!

—Mario Dovell, Class of 2009

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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STUDENT AT WHETSTONE

Every day our students connect with staff, each other and opportunities to Brave the Future. One unique aspect of Whetstone High School is the Brave Period, a special time each day dedicated to allowing students extra time to connect with their teachers to take projects to new levels, get extra help, make-up work after absences, extend lab time in science classes or connect on new and exciting coursework. This special time helps our Whetstone stay ahead.

Students follow a schedule each day:

Period	Begin Time	End Time	Minutes
1	7:30 a.m.	8:20 a.m.	50
2	8:23 a.m.	9:12 a.m.	49
3	9:15 a.m.	10:04 a.m.	49
4	10:07 a.m.	10:59 a.m.	52
12th lunch	10:07 a.m.	10:32 a.m.	25
9th lunch	10:34 a.m.	10:59 a.m.	25
5	11:02 a.m.	11:51 a.m.	49
6	11:54 a.m.	12:47 p.m.	53
10th Lunch	11:54 a.m.	12:19 p.m.	25
11th Lunch	12:21 p.m.	12:46 p.m.	25
7	12:49 p.m.	1:38 p.m.	49
8	1:41 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	49



DIVERSE ARTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR OPTIONS

Whetstone complements its academic offerings through a full array of vocal, visual and performing arts as well as technology, clubs, extracurricular activities and athletic teams. Whetstone Journalism and Web Design classes work collaboratively to produce an online newspaper. Whetstone athletic teams are one of the top two CCS schools in the number of earned City League Championship titles across all sports.

One of the most unique things about Whetstone is the recognition that students can and should be free to shape their school community. Students wishing to start new extracurricular activities at WHS are welcome to do so by finding an advisor and presenting their ideas to administration.



“

I love the performing arts department. The students and the directors provide such an encouraging environment to grow and give you endless possibilities to perform.

—Daniel Johnson-Brewer, student

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VIBRANT ARTS, MUSIC AND THEATRE AT WHETSTONE

The Whetstone Academy of Performing Arts (WAPA) is an amazing collaboration of the theater, choral and instrumental music programs at Whetstone High School. Under the leadership of committed directors, and with the support of school administrators and staff, and a thriving booster organization, WAPA aims to bring all students together to learn and grow through the performing arts.



WAPA classes available at WHS include: Marching Band, Concert Band, Handbell Choir, String Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, Beginning Instrumental Music, Vocal Ensemble, Mixed Chorus, Theater Survey, Acting One, Acting Two and Theatre Seminar.

Whetstone has a vibrant visual arts program, offering a broad range of classes from beginning to advanced. Art Club students paint murals and paintings that are showcased around the school with supplies garnered by grants and fundraisers. Students can participate in community events, painting windows at various Clintonville businesses. Many students also choose to attend Fort Hayes career center for half of the day where they specialize in art education and then return to Whetstone for academic classes. Our visual arts options are robust and include:

Sculpture and Ceramics
Art 1, 2, 3 and 4
Computer Graphics Photography
Web Design
Multimedia

Yearbook
Broadcast Journalism – The Braves
Messenger
Art Club



“

I love Whetstone’s diversity and the fact that there are different courses, paths, and clubs based on your interests and abilities, allowing the students to get an education fit to them.

—Rylie Gates, student

”

WHETSTONE ATHLETICS

While Whetstone consistently boasts numerous athletic championships, winning isn't the whole equation. At Whetstone every athletic team is seen as an extension of the community and an opportunity to build character and camaraderie.

A study by the Women's Sport Foundation (1989) showed that high school students who participate in athletics do better academically, are more involved and stay more involved in their communities after graduation. The U.S. Department of Education's High School and Beyond Study also shows that student athletes are much more likely to stay in school. And, research conducted by Skip Dane of Hardiness Research Center (1991), shows that the benefits of sports participation are strong for both girls and boys, grades are higher for athletes and drug use by student athletes is significantly lower than among non-athletes.

With our many athletic teams, Whetstone provides opportunities to participate in one or multiple sports to beginning and accomplished athletes. We recognize that athletics can be an important and helpful part of the high school experience and offer:

Athletics

Cross Country – girls & boys (Fall); Girls Head Coach: Bill Eagle; Boys Head Coach: Joe Monda

Football – boys (Fall); Head Coach: Tom Jones

Golf – coed (Fall); Head Coach: Tom Philip

Soccer – girls & boys (Fall); Girls Head Coach: Doug Kohler; Boys Head Coach: Noah Creagh

Tennis – girls (Fall) & boys (Spring); Head Coach: Bucky Walters

Volleyball – girls (Fall) & boys (Spring); Head Coach: Errole Rembert

Basketball – girls & boys (Winter); Girls Head Coach: Torrie Ruffin; Boys Head Coach: Dean Washington

Bowling – girls & boys (Winter); Girls Head Coach: Christine Jonard; Boys Head Coach: Doug Kohler

Swim & Dive – girls & boys (Winter); Girls Head Coach: Diane Barnhart; Boys Head Coach: Chris Cordi

Wrestling – coed (Winter); Head Coach: Mac Conkling

Baseball – boys (Spring); Head Coach: Tim Broskie

Softball – girls (Spring); Head Coach: Larry Peck

Track & Field – girls & boys (Spring); Girls Head Coach: Adam Berry; Boys Head Coach: Joe Monda

Cheerleading (Fall & Winter); Kayshla Diaz

WHETSTONE CLUBS

The high school experience is about exploring, learning and trying new and different things that will help to define a path for the future. We encourage our students in their exploration with an array of clubs and opportunities.

Our Creative Writing and Poetry Clubs offer creative outlets for our students, with performance and publishing opportunities. Many of our activities further academic achievement, such as Mock Trial and In The Know. Still others further connection and tolerance in our diverse environment, such as the Sexuality and Gender Alliance and Multicultural Club.

Whatever you are looking for, Whetstone likely has an opportunity for you.

Clubs & Activities

Art Club
Chess Club
Creative Writing Club
Female Student Advocacy Council
Sexuality And Gender Alliance (SAGA) (formerly Gay Straight Alliance, GSA)
In The Know
Key Club sponsored by Northwest Kiwanis
Mock Trial
Multicultural Club
National History Day
National Honor Society
Podcasting Club
Poetry Out Loud/Poetry Slam
Principal's Advisory Council
Project LIT
Project Mentor
Senior Council
Speech and Debate
Ultimate Frisbee Team
WAPA Theatre Club
Whetstone Homecoming Court
Yearbook



“

Do extra activities like a music class or theater, or sports. The communities are great and it makes high school a lot more fun.

—Issac Fleece, student

”

WE BRAVE THE FUTURE THROUGH SERVICE

While Whetstone students are required to complete **120 hours of community service** to graduate, many of our students go above and beyond to make the world a better place.

Opportunities to help the school community are offered to all students. From participating in grounds cleanup to helping put on drama productions, or helping other students academically, students are encouraged to participate in making Whetstone a great place to go to school.

Students are also encouraged to connect with their communities, volunteering at nonprofits in their neighborhoods, painting area business windows with the art club or supporting our neighborhood elementary schools through volunteering or giving performances of music and theatre.

Additionally, our students work to make the world a better place through projects in their humanities, science and other classes connected to world issues, through their own personal commitments.

In the spring of 2020, the American Sign Language class connected with a local elderly deaf retirement community where they are using the skills learned in class to communicate and bring joy to their residents. Recently, a group of students started the Feminist Club with the help of a staff member. The club is focused on education, as well as social justice work. Also, the Key Club organizes a project to provide food to families in Lesotho, an impoverished country in Southern Africa.

It's through activities such as these, as well as many others, that the students of Whetstone High School not only learn valuable life skills but also give back to the community they live in to make the world a better place.



“

I chose to attend Whetstone because I wanted to have a real high school experience at my neighborhood school. With all schools I thought about going to, I knew I had friends going to Whetstone. There were also many opportunities that interested me at Whetstone, such as sports and academic opportunities.

—Maitland Neff, student

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BROAD PARENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Whetstone High School PTA makes a difference in the Whetstone community!

We encourage your involvement in our PTA because every family has something to offer regardless of the amount of time or resources you have to contribute. According to a National PTA study, the best predictor of student success is the extent to which a parents or guardians involve themselves in a child's education and school life. As your child enters high school, chances are you are not going to have the same level of communication with him/her as you did in elementary and middle school. At our meetings, you will have direct communication with the school during the Principal's Report. This portion of our meeting provides an update on school activities and issues directly from the Principal. By joining the PTA you not only have an impact on the school and students but updates from the school administration as well.

One of the largest PTA events is the annual Homecoming Parade and Festival. Activities kick-off Friday afternoon with a parade through the neighborhood, followed by a festival for families from across the pathway. The festival features a silent auction, kids' games, free food, bake sale, and more. The Homecoming Court rides in convertibles, the Whetstone pathway elementary and middle school groups march along with WHS clubs and sports teams, as well as many community members and local businesses. Sponsorship from the local community makes this a huge fundraiser for the PTA. The homecoming game takes place Friday night with the dance on Saturday. Always an exciting weekend!

In addition to the Homecoming festivities, the PTA also:

- Prepares and volunteers for Student Honor Roll Recognition.
- Decorates and serves at the Annual Community Breakfast.
- Cooks, bakes, and donates food for staff appreciation.
- Landscapes, paints, and keeps our school looking great!
- Raises funds for Educator and Student Organization grants and scholarships.
- Provides funds for capital improvement projects.
- Helps determine what is needed to make Whetstone even better every year for all its students.

And much more!

Join the Whetstone High School PTA this school year! Meetings are held the school library on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Contact us at WhetstonePTA@gmail.com or 614-365-6060.



OUR STUDENTS ARE COVERED ON THE FIELD....

Athletic Boosters

The Whetstone High School Athletic Boosters encourage and support the advancement of student-athletes at Whetstone. We are a very active parent organization that works with the coaches to promote the success of our teams both on and off the field of competition. For example, athletes who demonstrate achievement in the classroom are recognized in the fall and spring, and seniors are eligible for Athletic Boosters' scholarships.

Columbus City Schools is one of the few districts in central Ohio that does not require participation fees for sports (known as "pay to play"). However there are still expenses that our teams and athletes incur to compete. The Athletic Boosters support for the student-athletes at Whetstone includes helping with team camp and tournament fees, purchasing sports equipment, and financing special projects such as weight room renovations, new dugouts and fencing for the softball field, stadium locker room upgrades, and press box remodeling, to name a few. With twenty-two teams and more than 500 student-athletes, (about 50% of the student body), the Athletic Boosters keep busy with requests for a variety of assistance.

The number and diversity of athletic opportunities make Whetstone unique – students have a variety of options in choosing a sport to play, and are able to try sports that they may not have had a chance to play before. With our strong Junior Varsity programs, incoming freshman gain playing experience right away.

There's no membership fee to join the Athletic Boosters – just send us an email at whetstone.athletic.boosters@gmail.com to let us know you're interested in becoming a Booster. Just a few hours of your time each year makes a big difference for our teams. We support our teams with the community-wide fundraising Booster Drive in the fall, as well as concession sales during each season. These fundraisers are only successful with the help of our dedicated volunteers. Volunteering is also a great way to meet other Whetstone parents.

The Athletic Boosters meet the fourth Monday of each month from 6:30 – 8:00pm in the high school library. This is a good time to hear the latest news concerning our student athletes and to have any questions answered by our Athletic Director, coaches, or fellow Boosters. Please join us!



BACKUP FOR THE WHETSTONE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS IS STRONG

The Whetstone Music Boosters is a large parent organization that supports the theater, choral, and instrumental music programs at Whetstone. Hundreds of students participate in classes and performances with the Whetstone Academy of Performing Arts (WAPA), and the booster group works to support each student and every event.

We hold general meetings once a month. We get together many other times throughout the year for fundraisers and as chaperones for performances. Boosters serve pizza, ride the bus to football games with the marching band, host silent auctions, maintain uniforms, sell tickets, bake cookies, travel along on trips to Disney and Chicago, pick up candy bars, built theater sets, sell donuts . . .the list goes on! We strive to make sure our directors and students have what they need to succeed.

Please join us and connect with other parents during the school year! Meetings are the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm in the school library.



“

I love how involved students can be. Students here have so many options of what to do and how to be more involved with the school and the community. Coming from somewhere that was limited in everything but sports to here was really freeing.

—Katelyn Williamson, student

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WHETSTONE IS SURROUNDED WITH COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Clintonville Go Public was formed to support the Whetstone Pathway and every school that is part of that pathway across our diverse neighborhoods.

The organization believes great communities start with strong neighborhood schools. It's mission is "We are families, neighbors, and educators dedicated to the value of neighborhood public schools, working to support and enhance the Whetstone pathway from kindergarten to college."

The Whetstone HS neighborhood academic pathway begins with Clinton, Como, Colerain, Huy, Indian Springs, Salem and Weinland Park Elementary Schools. These student populations all move to Dominion Middle School and then on to Whetstone High School. The Whetstone Pathway provides rich cultural and socio-economic diversity along with a strong sense of community from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Clintonville Go Public holds fundraising events to support the Whetstone pathway schools. These fundraisers have brought more than \$100,000 into the pathway over the last several years.

Visit clintonvillegopublic.org or follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/ClintonvilleGoPublic](https://www.facebook.com/ClintonvilleGoPublic) and Instagram at [Instagram.com/clintonvillegopublic](https://www.instagram.com/clintonvillegopublic) to learn more.

CLINTONVILLE
GO PUBLIC
Supporting the Whetstone Pathway of Schools



B R A V E T H E F U T U R E

COURSE LISTINGS

Required Courses for Graduation

English – 4 credits

Math – 4 credits

Science – 3 credits

Social Studies – 3 credits

Academic Elective – 1 credit (additional science or social studies)

PE – 0.5 credits (2 classes 0.25 credits each)

Health – 0.5 credits

Fine Arts – 1 credit

Technology – 1 credit

Internship – 1 credit (120 hours)

Elective – 3 credits

Whetstone High School course options for 9th grade students include (These are the classes that the majority of 9th graders will take. If a student takes a High School credited class in middle school, they will take the next class in the High School curriculum):

CORE COURSES			
✓	ENGLISH & SOCIAL STUDIES	✓	MATH
<input type="checkbox"/>	920010.1 and 920010.2 - English 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	900200.1 and 900200.2 - Algebra 1 (replaces Math 1)
<input type="checkbox"/>	930600.1 and 930600.2 - Modern World History 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	902020.1 and 902020.2 - Geometry
-OR-		<input type="checkbox"/>	902020.1B &.2B, 902020.1B, &.2B – Geometry/Algebra II
<input type="checkbox"/>	922020.1 and 922020.2 - Humanities English 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	902030.1 and 902030.2 – Algebra II
<input type="checkbox"/>	930940.1 and 930940.2 - Hum 9: Modern World History	<input type="checkbox"/>	900500.1 and 900500.2 - Precalculus
✓	SCIENCE	✓	PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH
<input type="checkbox"/>	914000.1 and 914000.2 - Physical Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	950105 - Physical Education I
<input type="checkbox"/>	911000.1 and 911000.2 - Biology	<input type="checkbox"/>	950205 - Physical Education II
		<input type="checkbox"/>	950005 - Health
ELECTIVE COURSES			
WORLD LANGUAGES (3+ years recommended for College-Bound students)			
French		Spanish	
<input type="checkbox"/>	971010.1 and 971010.2 - French 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	970010.1 and 970010.2 - Spanish 1
<input type="checkbox"/>	971020.1 and 971020.2 - French 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	970020.1 and 970020.2 - Spanish 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	971030.1 and 971030.2 - French 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	970030.1 and 970030.2 - Spanish 3
Sign Language		Additional Levels of each Language are available	
	977010.1 and 977010.2- ASL 1		
TECHNOLOGY			
<input type="checkbox"/>	940630.1 and 920630.2 - Microsoft Office Suite (MOS) Industry Credential		(1.0 Credit – Year)
<input type="checkbox"/>	940300.1 and 940300.2 - Intro to Multimedia		(1.0 credit – Year)
<input type="checkbox"/>	984055 and 984065 - Intro to Computer Science		(1.0 credit – Year)
<input type="checkbox"/>	C18061/C18071 - CCP Credits Counts: Year 1 Must Meet College/CCP Reqs & Deadlines		(2.0 Credits – Year)
VISUAL ART			
<input type="checkbox"/>	965015 Art 1 Survey X: Studio & Skills (Fall)		(0.5 credit – Semester)
<input type="checkbox"/>	965025 Art 1 Survey Y: History & Appreciation (Spring)		(0.5 credit – Semester)
<input type="checkbox"/>	965320.1 and 965320.2 Art 2 (Prerequisite: Art 1 Survey X & Y or Approval)		(1.0 Credit – Year)
<input type="checkbox"/>	966310.1 and 966310.2 Art Spec: Computer Graphics		(1.0 Credit – Year)
<input type="checkbox"/>	965530.1 and 965530.2 Art Spec: Beginning Photography		(1.0 Credit – Year)

MUSIC		
<input type="checkbox"/>	960015 - Music Survey X: Elements & Skills (Fall)	(0.5 credit – Semester)
<input type="checkbox"/>	960025 - Music Survey Y: History & Culture (Spring)	(0.5 credit – Semester)
Music Performance		
<input type="checkbox"/>	960100.1 and 960100.2 - Basic Instrumental Music (Beginning Band) No experience necessary	(1.0 Credit – Year)
<input type="checkbox"/>	961000.1 and 961000.2 - Marching/Concert Band Must have previous playing experience	(1.0 Credit – Year)
<input type="checkbox"/>	960300.1 and 960300.2 - String Orchestra	(1.0 Credit – Year)
<input type="checkbox"/>	960610.1 and 960610.2- Handbells	(1.0 Credit – Year)
<input type="checkbox"/>	961100.1 and 961100.2 - Jazz Ensemble Audition Required, Can be 8th course	(1.0 Credit – Year)
<input type="checkbox"/>	961500.1 and 961599.2 - Mixed Chorus I No experience necessary	(1.0 Credit – Year)
<input type="checkbox"/>	961400.1 and 961400.2 - Mixed Ensemble Audition Required	(1.0 Credit – Year)
THEATRE STUDIES		
<input type="checkbox"/>	963115 - Theatre Survey X: History & Performance (Fall)	(0.5 credit – Semester)
<input type="checkbox"/>	963125 - Theatre Survey Y: Tech Theatre & Production (Spring)	(0.5 credit – Semester)
<input type="checkbox"/>	963310.1 and 963310.2 - Acting 1: Intro to Acting Prereq: Theatre Survey X & Y	(1.0 Credit – Year)

Note: We do our best to give students the courses they request, however, your requests are not guaranteed. Course Offerings & Student Schedules are Subject to Review based on Graduation Requirements, Staffing, Student Interest, Course Availability, Timing of the Master Schedule, Prerequisites, Teacher Approval, etc. Please contact your School Counselor with any questions or concerns. This list does not include every WHS Course Offering; it has been shortened for 9th grade Course Selection. Please visit the Whetstone website for a full list of course offerings.

School Counselors: Megan Brautigam (A – E), Anna Schwab (F – L), Marie Fiascunari (M – Q), Matt Agee (R – Z)

School Counseling Office: 614-365-6066 Main Office: 614-365-6060



“

I love the people and the community here at Whetstone. There are so many people to meet and you can make a lot of new friends.

—Lillian Keener, student

”

YOUR FACULTY AND STAFF OVERVIEW

A full 100% of Whetstone's faculty and instructional paraprofessional staff are Highly Qualified in their teaching areas. Whetstone faculty members participate in a wide-range of school activities outside of the classroom going above and beyond expectations. This is why Whetstone students report that their teachers really care about and support them, both in and out of the classroom.



Agee, Matt, Counselor

Mr. Agee earned his Master's Degree in School Counseling from Bowling Green State University in 2018. He is a die-hard Ohio State and Cleveland Browns fan and enjoys spending quality time with his family. Mr. Agee moved to Columbus

in June and joined the Whetstone staff in August of this year. This is his first experience at the High School level, as he previously worked in an Elementary school in Sandusky, OH. He feels very fortunate to be a part of the Whetstone family as the staff is excellent and he has already established many positive relationships with the students here. Mr. Agee says, "Our students have high aspirations and I'm excited to help them work toward achieving these goals."



Altamirano-Bermudez, Dirce, ESL Instructional Assistant

Ms. Altamirano-Bermudez graduated from Capital University with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology. She is bilingual in Spanish and English.



Arnold, Kathy, English

Mrs. Arnold attended The Ohio State University where she earned her BS in Education and Ashland University for her Master of Education in English. She is licensed to teach Comprehensive English 7 to 12. She began teaching in 1988 and

came to Whetstone in 1996. She has taught Literature and Composition for grades 9 to 12 and Humanities for grades 9 and 10. She received the 2014 National History Day Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award (Ohio) and the Rotary Club of Columbus Service Award in 2006. She and her freshman Humanities teaching partner Mrs. Buckley have traveled to the National History Day Competition in Washington, D.C. with national qualifying students in 2012 and 2015.

Mrs. Arnold says, "Whetstone High School has a strong and supportive community as well as a dedicated staff. Whetstone High School is a great place - there is something here for everyone."



Ashby, Jeanne, Special Education

Ms. Ashby attended Clark State University where she studied commercial art. She had a kid's daycare in her home for 24 years before starting her second career with Columbus

City Schools and joined Whetstone in 2013. She is an MD Classified Instructional Assistant and works with students across subjects. She has been a volunteer coordinator for Ridgeview Middle School Science Olympiad and PTA member at Gables Elementary, Ridgeview Middle School and Centennial High School. All of her children are Columbus City School graduates.

Ms. Ashby says, "As a 19-year PTA parent myself, Whetstone has a great PTA and Boosters with strong parent involvement. This is an asset to a successful school. Not all high schools in our district are lucky enough to have this parent support."



Assadian, Cameron, ESL Math

Mr. Assadian graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University with a B.A. in Mathematical Sciences and Secondary Education. He continued his graduate studies at the University of South Carolina and earned his Master's

degree in Educational Administration from Ashland University. Mr. Assadian is actively involved in doctoral research studies in Second Language Acquisition at The Ohio State University. He holds a 5-12 principal license from the State of Ohio, Mathematics 7-12 license, and TESOL Endorsement K-12. He began his career in education in 1984 and joined Whetstone in 2015.

Mr. Assadian is proud to be a part of the Whetstone family: "With its high reputation for high student achievement in the district and the active community, caring staff, professional administration team, and the diverse student population, Whetstone was the obvious choice for me. Whetstone HS provides students a well-rounded education offering rigorous academics, sports, music and art programs, preparing them for leadership and service, empowered for success as a citizen in a global community."

**Ballmer, Karen, Social Studies**

Mrs. Ballmer is a graduate of The Ohio State University; with a BA in History and an M. Ed. in Social Studies and Global Education. She is licensed to teach Integrated Social Studies 7-12. She began her teaching career in 2005 and joined

Whetstone in 2014. She teaches American History and Humanities 10. Mrs. Ballmer is the Mock Trial Advisor and Department Chair for the Social Studies Department.

Mrs. Ballmer says, "Whetstone has a great community feeling. The student population is diverse and wonderful to work with and the staff is dedicated and supportive! Whetstone offers many opportunities for student growth and participation. There is truly an opportunity for everyone to get involved!"

**Berend, Jennifer, Math**

Ms. Berend attended Kent State University for her Bachelor of Science, Secondary Education-Mathematics and Kent State University for her Master's Degree in Instructional Technology. She is licensed in 7-12 Mathematics

and began her teaching career in 1994. She came to Whetstone in 2011. She teaches AQR and is also an Adjunct Instructor at Columbus State Community College.

Ms. Berend says, "I chose Whetstone based on its reputation, passionate teachers, strong community support and the diversity of the student population."

**Berry, Adam, Science**

Mr. Berry attended The Ohio State University and Ashland University where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and M.Ed. He is licensed to teach Physical Science, Chemistry and Physics for grades 7-12.

Mr. Berry began his career in 2009 at Marion Franklin and most recently taught at Centennial High School before coming to Whetstone in 2017. In addition to science, his areas of expertise include Engineering and SAT test prep. Currently at WHS, he teaches materials science and physical science.

Mr. Berry resides within the Whetstone Community and loves working with his Whetstone colleagues.

**Bonner, Aimee, Math**

Ms. Bonner attended Otterbein and The Ohio State University to earn her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and STEM M. Ed. She is licensed to teach Integrated Mathematics 7-12 and currently teaches Math II & III at

Whetstone. Prior to teaching, Ms. Bonner has 15 years of experience in the business world with data and inventory logistics. She began her teaching career

with 4 years at Linden-McKinley STEM Academy and joined the Whetstone staff in 2017. Her areas of expertise include reaching and teaching at-risk, and beyond-at-risk, students.

Ms. Bonner says, "I love the diversity of our student population. It is reflective of the world. We can learn a lot from one another."

Boss, Lonette, Adapted PE

Ms. Boss earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from The Ohio State University and Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Ohio Dominican University. She holds licenses in Physical Education K-12 and Adapted Physical Education K-12.

Ms. Boss has 3 cousins who are Whetstone Alumni and when asked what she loves about Whetstone, she says "the great students and staff."

**Brautigam, Megan, Counselor**

Mrs. Brautigam earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California, minoring in Sociology and Music Performance. After her wedding in

2011, she moved to Columbus with her husband. She earned her Master's Degree from the School Counseling program at The Ohio State University. She has worked in a variety of schools before joining the Whetstone staff in 2016.

She says, "I love the fact that Whetstone is such a unique and extraordinarily diverse community. I feel privileged to work alongside such a dedicated staff and invested community, as we serve our city's students and families together."

**Brookbank-Mizer, Julie, Speech Language Pathologist**

Mrs. Mizer attended The Ohio State University for her Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Language Sciences and a Master of Arts in Speech Pathology.

She is licensed by the Ohio Speech and Hearing Professional Board and maintains a Teaching License to practice speech pathology in the schools (K-12). Mrs. Mizer maintains her membership with the American Speech and Hearing Association and the Ohio Speech and Language Association. She has worked as a Speech Pathologist for Columbus City Schools for 20 years and joined the Whetstone staff in 2017. Mrs. Mizer provides evaluation and therapy services to students eligible for speech and language services.

When asked what she loves about Whetstone, Mrs. Mizer simply stated "Community and the supportive staff!"

**Broskie, Timothy, Special Education**

Mr. Broskie attended the University of Rio Grande where he received a Bachelor of Science. He is licensed in Special Education K-12, PE K-12 and English 6-12 and began his teaching career in 1989. He started teaching at

Whetstone in 2006, but has been head baseball coach since 1994, achieving 15 City League Titles in his tenure. He teaches Math, English and Life Skills. When not at Whetstone he coaches travel baseball, youth wrestling and Special Olympics. Coach Broskie was inducted into the Baseball Coaches' Hall of Fame in 2016.

Mr. Broskie says: "Whetstone is an amazing school that has wonderful parent support. The Booster Club and PTA are simply the best in CCS. Whetstone also has many outstanding teachers who will push each and every student to achieving the best that they possibly can."

Brown, Christina, Food Service

Ms. Brown joined the Whetstone staff in 2017. She enjoys being with her family, playing video games, bowling and reading. Her favorite color is pink and when asked what she likes about her job, she said "the students and staff."

Brumfield, Marcia, Special Education

Ms. Brumfield attended The Ohio State University and received her BS and MA. She is licensed in the areas of SLD, ID and SED K to 12. She began teaching in Columbus in 1993 after working for the State of Ohio as a program coordinator for five years. She joined Whetstone in 2015 as an intervention specialist and teaches Math I, II, III and AQR.

Ms. Brumfield says, "I came to Whetstone after having spent almost 20 years at the middle school level knowing I was coming to a school with a strong community base and academic and extracurricular programs."

**Buckley, Krista, Social Studies**

Mrs. Buckley attended The Ohio State University for a Bachelor of Arts & Sciences and Wright State University for Teaching Certificate Social Studies Comprehensive 7-12, as well as Ashland University for a Master of Education. She

is licensed to teach Social Studies Comprehensive 7-12 and has been teaching since 1999. She began at Whetstone in 2005 and teaches Humanities 9/World History 9/ Psychology & U.S. History. She won the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award-National History Day in 2014 and with her freshman humanities teaching partner Mrs. Arnold has traveled to the National History Day Competition in Washington, D.C. with national qualifying students in 2012 and 2015.

Mrs. Buckley says, "I chose Whetstone because of the hard working staff, top notch students, and strong parent/community involvement. Whetstone is a true

snapshot of what the real world is like. We have a great diversity of students and a caring staff that is dedicated to student success."

Burchett, Lisa, Food Service

Ms. Burchett joined the WHS staff in 2015 after 20 years working at Marion Franklin High School. She enjoys spending time with her family and she likes to fish. When asked what she enjoys about her job, Ms. Burchett says she loves cooking for large amounts of people. She has 2 grandchildren at Cedarwood Elementary.

**Bycynski, Lisa, Business/Technology**

Ms. Bycynski attended The Ohio State University for her MA in Education, Ohio Dominican for her Teacher Certification and The Ohio State University for BS in Computer and Information Science. She is licensed to teach Computer Science (7-

12) and Information Systems and Support. She began teaching in 1999 and joined Whetstone in 2012. She teaches Web Design and the Credits Count program which is a dual enrollment computer science program with Columbus State Community College. She also has 14 years of experience in software development primarily at IBM and CompuServe companies.

Ms. Bycynski says, "I chose Whetstone for the academics, diversity of student population, and the numerous extracurricular activities offered to students, and the opportunity to create a technology program. There are wonderful administrators, teachers, and staff members at Whetstone. There is also wonderful support from the community and parents to make Whetstone High School a great place to learn."

**Cordi, Christopher, Special Education**

Mr. Cordi attended Urbana University for a BS in Recreation Education and earned his Master's in Special Education from Grand Canyon University. He joined Whetstone in 2012, but has been teaching since 2006. He is an Assistant in

the Special Education MD Unit and credentialed as an OHSAA Official in Football, Baseball, Basketball, and Wrestling. He has worked OHSAA Football Playoffs every year since 2013.

Mr. Cordi says he chose Whetstone "because I wanted to be close to my home and also, wanted to work with the BEST MD Unit in CCS." He says students should choose Whetstone "because of the teachers. They are willing to help students make choices."

DeVendra, Abbie, Transition Coordinator

Mrs. DeVendra earned her Bachelors and Master's degree from Miami University and began her teaching career in 2006. In 2010 she moved to Chicago, Illinois and began working in the area of Transition which is what lead her back to school to earn her "Transition To Work Certificate" from Illinois State University. She is a K-12 licensed Intervention Specialist and has been

working as a transition coordinator for past 3 years in the district. This is Mrs. DeVendra's second year at Whetstone as the second Transition Coordinator. Mrs. DeVendra says, "I am here at Whetstone two days a week and have enjoyed being part of such a welcoming community."



DeWolfe, Justin, ESL

Mr. DeWolfe attended Capital University and earned a BA in Chemistry. He completed his M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction at Ohio University and earned his TESOL endorsement at The Ohio State University. He has also completed

all coursework for a BFA in vocal performance at Ohio University. He is licensed to teach Chemistry (7-12) with TESOL endorsement (K-12). He has been teaching since 1997 and came to Whetstone in 2015 to teach ESL Science. Outside of Whetstone he is a professional opera singer (lyric baritone) with Opera Project Columbus and a lounge singer at a local fine dining establishment. He won 2nd Place at the National Teachers of Singing Regional Competition, 2004.

He says, "I chose Whetstone to work with English language learners at a flagship school where they are welcomed by staff and their native English speaking peers. We are a diverse school with a new international flair. People are free to be themselves here and accepted for who they are."



Dobelle, Elliot, Business/Technology

Mr. Dobelle graduated from The Ohio State University with a BS in Education, focused on Technical Education and Training. He earned his M.Ed. in Workforce Development Education from The Ohio State University. He began

his teaching career in 2006 and came to Whetstone in 2015. He teaches Exploring Computer Science, Microsoft Word, & Microsoft Excel at Whetstone. He not only teaches in Columbus City Schools, he is also a Columbus City School Parent. He has an amazing little 2nd grader in Elementary School.

Mr. Dobelle says, "Whetstone is a very diverse school that has a great deal to offer. The Computer Science Pathway that Whetstone offers will set students up for success after graduation. Whetstone is the only Columbus City High School to offer such a Computer Science Pathway."

Eagle, William, Career and Community Resource Coordinator

Mr. Eagle attended the University of Mount Union where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education. He is in his 23rd year of education, 20 of which have been in Columbus City Schools. Mr. Eagle spent the last 14 years at Marion-Franklin High School working as the Testing Coordinator, Dean of Students, and coach for several varsity sports. Mr. Eagle is who

you see at Whetstone to turn in your internship hours as well as plan for your future by exploring the options our career centers have to offer.

He enjoys spending his time after school hours coaching student athletes and traveling with his wife and 2 children. He is currently one of the Cross Country coaches and will be coaching Track and Field in the spring. Mr. Eagle enjoys being part of the Whetstone community and states, "Whetstone is a fantastic community with rich cultural diversity. The students and staff have welcomed me with overwhelming positivity. I look forward to many years of service at Whetstone High School."



Evans, Rebecca, English

Mrs. Evans is a graduate of Georgetown College and Northern Kentucky University with a BA English and MA Teaching. She is licensed to teach English 7-12 and Technology K-12. She began her career in 2006 and joined

Whetstone in 2017. Her areas of expertise include writing, photography, technology, social media and Google. Mrs. Evans currently teaches English 9 & 10.

Mrs. Evans says, "I love that Whetstone has incredible colleagues and awesome students."



Ford, Austin, Social Studies

Mr. Ford attended Saint Leo University and currently attends Ashland University. He has a B.A. in Education and is working on his Master's Degree. He is licensed to teach social studies for grades 7 to 12. He came to Whetstone in

2016 and teaches Personal Law and U.S. History 10.

Mr. Ford lives in the Whetstone pathway and says the community's commitment to the neighborhood schools is what he loves about Whetstone.

Green, Hannah, Library Media

My job as the Library Media Specialist is to support students, teachers, and parents by providing resources and services related to the school curriculum. At Whetstone, the library is a safe space for students to work or relax during the school day. It is open for students to use every period. Many teachers require students to have an independent reading book, so I strive to provide a variety of high-interest books to choose from. In addition to providing academic support, I also have stress relieving activities in the library throughout the school year.



Haffele, Brian, V-CAP / ISS

Mr. Haffele joined the Whetstone staff in 2019 after spending the past fourteen years at Marion-Franklin High School. Mr. Haffele began his teaching career with Columbus City Schools in 2000 at Walnut Ridge High School. He is a graduate of Ohio Dominican University in 1999 and

Ashland University 2002, where he earned his B.S. as an Intervention Specialist (1999) and his Master's in Athletic Administration (2002). Mr. Haffele says he is excited to work in a school that has the great community support that Whetstone does.

Hamer, Zach, English

Mr. Hamer attended The Ohio State University for his BA in English and Master's in Education. He is licensed to teach 7-12 Integrated Language Arts. He began his career at Walnut Ridge High School in 2009 before coming to Whetstone. Mr. Hamer teaches English 11 and 12. He is a Whetstone community resident and a favorite quote is, "Where we're going, we don't need roads."



Heydlauff, Seth, Spanish

Mr. Heydlauff earned his Bachelor's in Spanish and History from Denison University and his Master's in Education from The Ohio State University. He is licensed to teach K-12 Spanish and began teaching in 2007. He joined

Whetstone in 2012 and teaches Spanish levels 2 and 4. He studied abroad in Santiago, Chile and has traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina and Costa Rica, as well as led a Whetstone student tour to Peru in 2017.

Mr. Heydlauff says, "Whetstone is a great school with a diverse and intelligent group of students and staff which will prepare you to be successful in life after high school."



Hooper, Sonya, Transition Coordinator

I provide individualized transition planning for students with disabilities. As a Transition Coordinator, I am dedicated to working alongside students, families, and the IEP Team to help navigate the pathway from high school to adulthood.



Howard, Jennifer, Math

Mrs. Howard attended Ohio Dominican College for a B.S. in Math and Marygrove College for a Master's in the Art of Teaching. She holds licensing in Math 7-12 and began working in education in 1997. She joined Whetstone in 2015 as a

math teacher and teaches Math 2 and Math 3.

Mrs. Howard says, "I knew the Clintonville community was strong and supportive of education. I wanted to teach where students value education and want to achieve more beyond the classroom."



Hurley, Jill, Art

Ms. Hurley is a graduate of Columbus College of Art & Design with a BFA and Otterbein University for her Teaching Certification. She also attended Rio Grande University to earn an M.Ed. in the Arts. She is licensed to teach Fine Arts

K-12. She taught with Columbus Parks and Recreation before coming to Columbus City Schools in 1999. She has been at Whetstone since 2012 and teaches Visual Arts for 9th to 12th grade. She teaches Art I, II and III/IV.

She earned the Cannon Beach Individual Artist's Grant in 1994 and oversees the Whetstone Art Club. Ms. Hurley is a Columbus City Schools alumna, graduating from South High School.

She says, "I believe Whetstone is one of the best schools our district has to offer. We have a diverse population, an excellent variety of sports and clubs. We are surrounded by a beautiful natural area. The Clintonville community provides us with a variety of opportunities for art projects within the neighborhood."

Her advice is: "Students should come to Whetstone because:

- We have a diverse and interesting student body.
- We have a huge variety of sports and clubs.
- We are near a beautiful park and bike path.
- We have an Excellent Art program!"

Inbody, Hannah, Social Studies

Miss Inbody attended The Ohio State University, where she earned her Bachelor's in Integrated Social Studies in 2019, and her Master's in Education in 2020. She is licensed to teach 7-12 Social Studies and began her teaching career at Whetstone High School in 2021. She teaches American History at Whetstone, as well as African American Studies and Latin American Studies. She also serves as one of the advisors for the senior class.

Miss Inbody says, "I have loved being a part of the Whetstone community. The staff and parents provide so much opportunity for the students, and students are so supportive of each other. It is so amazing to be a part of a group of people who lift each other and want to see each other succeed. It is so motivating!"



Iquina, Gerard, Physical Education and Health

Mr. Iquina, "I.Q." joined Whetstone in 2015 as a Physical Education and Health teacher. He attended Bowling Green State University, where he earned his B.A. in Education and Ohio Dominican

University, where he earned his M.A. in Sports Management with an exercise science concentration. He is licensed to teach physical education to grades 7 to 12 and to coach, as well as teach health. Prior to Whetstone, Mr. Iquina taught in Toledo and in Columbus City Schools at Marion Franklin, Eastmoor, Centennial and West High Schools. His areas of expertise include physical education, fitness, health and nutrition.

Jaffy, Sarah, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Jaffy became a member of Whetstone's administrative team as an Assistant Principal in 2019, after previously working as an Assistant Principal at Linden McKinley Stem Academy. Mrs. Jaffy has a 7-12 comprehensive social studies teaching license and, before becoming an administrator, worked as a middle school and high school social studies teacher in Columbus City Schools. Mrs. Jaffy received her B.S. in Education from Ohio State University, and

completed her Master of Science in Education and Allied Professions and Principal Licensure Program at the University of Dayton.

Mrs. Jaffy says that she has appreciated the warm welcome from the Whetstone family and values being a part of this diverse and inclusive community.



Jakob, Martina, Administrative Support

Ms. Jakob received a BS in Computer and Information Science and an MBA with a concentration in Information Technology from **THE** Ohio State University after graduation from

Whetstone High School. She worked as an Information Systems Staff Member for AT&T Network Systems until she became a full-time Mom. She went back to work in food service and switched to secretarial work this year.

Ms. Jakob says, "It's great to be back at Whetstone after all these years and it's good to see some of the traditions are still in place".

Jeffers, Susan, Administrative Support

Mrs. Jeffers came to Whetstone in 1999. She is currently the Records Secretary.



Johnston, Nancy, Tutor

Ms. Johnston is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She is completing her final requirements for her Master's degree from Walden University which will give her full

licensure in mild to moderate special education. She currently has a supplemental license in mild to moderate special education and is also licensed in all subjects K-8. Ms. Johnston has worked as a preschool teacher, 4th grade teacher and now works in Intervention at Whetstone for English and Social Studies.

Ms. Johnston grew up in the Clintonville/Beechwood area and graduated from Whetstone. She says, "I love the welcoming staff and the traditions. I was so excited that the Friday hall marches have continued, just like when I was a student here."



Jones, Thomas, Physical Education and Health

Mr. Jones earned his BS at Capital University and is licensed in Physical Education and Health K-12. He came to Whetstone in 2005, while still in college, as a coach, began substitute

teaching at Whetstone in 2009 and worked as a special education instructional aide from 2010 to 2012. He joined the faculty in 2014 as a health and Physical

Education teacher. In addition, he is the head football and wrestling coach at Whetstone. Mr. Jones is a Whetstone alumnus and was named the Wrestling Coach of the Year in 2014 and 2016.

King, Randy, Athletic Director

Mr. King joined Whetstone in 2015 as Athletic Director. Prior to joining Whetstone, Mr. King served as Athletic Director at Northland High School.



Kohler, Douglas, Math

Mr. Kohler attended Eastern Kentucky University, where he earned his B.S. in Mathematics (Teaching) and Marygrove College where he earned his Master's in the Art of Teaching. He is licensed to teach Mathematics 7-12 and began

his teaching career in 1995. He came to Whetstone in 2006 and teaches Integrated Math I, II, III and AP Calculus AB. Mr. Kohler was named the Whetstone PTA Educator of the Year in 2018. His daughter, Alexandra graduated from Whetstone in 2014 and daughter, Sydney, will graduate from Whetstone in 2019.

He says, "Whetstone is a unique place where everyone fits in from all walks of life. It is the most inclusive place I've ever seen. While my family resides within the Worthington School District, we chose to send our daughter to WHS and it was an excellent decision! The staff is very caring, encouraging, and dedicated to student success."



Lake, Carolyn, Science

Ms. Lake attended Columbus State Community College, where she earned an associate's degree in Veterinary Medicine and The Ohio State University where she earned a BS in Earth Science

Education. She completed her MA in Curriculum Development and Technology at Nova Southeastern University. She is licensed to teach Physics, Chemistry, Earth science, Biology and Physical Science. She began teaching in 1992 and came to Whetstone in 2001. She teaches physics and biology. She holds a license in Veterinary Technology and has worked as a Research Technician at Battelle Memorial Institute and a Zoo Keeper (elephant trainer) at the Columbus and Toledo Zoos. In 2006, she won a FIRST Robotics Mentor award.

She says she came to Whetstone because, "I felt I could make a difference in someone's life." She urges students to choose Whetstone for "strong academics and a diverse student population."



Lenigan, Amy, Special Education

Ms. Lenigan attended Wittenberg University and UNC Asheville. She holds a Bachelor of Art and Master's in Curriculum/Instruction. She has licenses in earth science grades 7 to 12 and intervention specialist grades K to 12.

She has experience in Earth Science, inclusion and a variety of subjects in the resource room. She joined Whetstone in 2015 and has taught physical science, biology and chemistry. She says, she loves that at Whetstone, "learning is centered around our students' needs."



Lewis, Alison, Social Studies

Mrs. Lewis attended Northern Kentucky University, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies and Ashland University where she earned her Master of Education, Special Education. She is licensed to teach Social

Studies 7-12 and began teaching in 2008. She came to Whetstone in 2014 after teaching in Reynoldsburg High School and at Linden McKinley STEM Academy. She teaches Government and AP Government.

Mrs. Lewis says, "The staff is extremely dedicated to seeing the students succeed. They work hard to help their students be successful. There is a diverse amount of students here that makes Whetstone a unique place to be. It is a great place to learn opinions and experiences from one another."



Lusch, John, Special Education

Mr. Lusch attended The Ohio State University, where he earned his B.A. English, and Ashland University, where he earned his M.Ed. Special Education. He is licensed to teach 7-12 Integrated Language Arts and is a K-12 Intervention

Specialist. He began teaching in 2011 and joined Whetstone in 2014 as a Special Education English teacher for grades 9 to 12. Prior to that, he served six years in the United States Air Force and left as a Staff Sergeant.

Mr. Lusch says he came to Whetstone to "have the chance to teach in an authentic way that can set students on a path to life-long learning." He encourages students to choose Whetstone because "Whetstone offers a rigorous curriculum with high expectations that also prides itself on engaging the students with a rich and authentic purpose."



MacQueen, Amy, Special Education

Ms. MacQueen attended Columbus State and The Ohio State University, earning a BS in Business Administration and an M.Ed. in Middle Childhood Education. She is licensed to teach 4-9 Math & Social Studies and as a K-12 Intervention

Specialist. She began working in education in 2009 and joined Whetstone in 2013. She is a Special Education Tutor across all grades.



Marchetti, Tina, Social Studies

Mrs. Marchetti earned her Bachelor of Arts in History from Marietta College and Master of Social Sciences from Ohio University. She is licensed to teach

Integrated Social Studies and History for grades 7 to 12. She began teaching in 2001 and joined Whetstone in 2012. She teaches Global Issues, AP Human Geography and American Government. She also holds a Paralegal Certificate and is AP certified. She taught in several other Columbus City Schools before coming to Whetstone. She received the Annenberg Civic Initiative Recipient 2004 and Marion Franklin Freshman Teacher of the Month in January 2009. She says, "Having been in the CCS community for more than 17 years, I was well aware of Whetstone's high academic standards and reputation in the community and within CCS as a stellar school and wanted to be a part of that tradition. We have an excellent and motivated staff that truly loves what they do and loves the kids we work with! We educate the whole child!!"



Mathews, Lindsey, French

Ms. Mathews attended Ohio University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences (majors: French, Linguistics; minor: Hearing, Speech, and Language Science) and a Master of Education (subject: World Language). She is

licensed to teach French K-12 and TESOL K-12. She began teaching in 2009 and joined Whetstone in 2010. She teaches French 1-5 and is the advisor for the GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) and the France Trip.

She says, "I chose to work at Whetstone because of its supportive administration, diversity of students, and strong Clintonville community." Her advice to prospective students is: "The diversity at Whetstone is amazing. As an adolescent it is important to be exposed to and experience people of different backgrounds, such as culture, race, socioeconomic status, able-bodied-ness, sexual orientation, religion, etc. in order to become a more understanding and empathetic citizen of the community. There is a great sense of pride here at Whetstone through the community and the wide range of sports and after school programs available to students. There are incredible opportunities to travel abroad, as well."



McAllister, Grace, Vocal Music

Ms. McAllister attended Capital University to earn her Bachelor of Music in Music Education with Vocal Emphasis. She is licensed in music for PK-12. She began her career in 2013 teaching elementary music in Columbus City

Schools and joined the Whetstone staff in 2017. Ms. McAllister specializes in vocal music with experience including choral, musical theatre, and a Capella/pop singing. She serves as the National Honor Society Co-Advisor and teaches concert choir, vocal ensemble, music survey and music theory classes at Whetstone.

When asked what she loves about Whetstone, Ms. McAllister says, "I love the diversity here at Whetstone! WHS proves that teachers, staff, students, and community members from many different backgrounds can work and thrive together."

**McElroy, Daniel, Assistant Principal**

After graduating from The Ohio State University with a BA in Communication and an M.Ed from Wright State University, Mr. McElroy began his teaching career at Brookhaven High School in 2001. Mr. McElroy taught

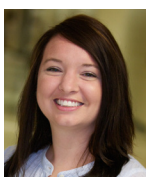
English and reading before earning his M.S. in Educational Leadership in 2017. He has most recently served at Centennial High School and Columbus North International School before joining the Whetstone staff in 2019. Mr. McElroy has lived on the north side of Columbus for nearly 20 years and has many close ties to the Clintonville community.

**Medwid, Kate, English**

Mrs. Medwid earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology at Bowling Green State University. After graduation, she worked for 2 years as a crisis counselor/intake coordinator at Mount Carmel West Hospital on the Psychiatric Unit

before deciding to move to Colorado, and go back to school to get her teaching degree. She earned her 7-12 ELA teaching certificate from Western State College of Colorado, followed by her Master's Degree in Multicultural and Bilingual Education at the University of Colorado. After spending nearly a decade in Colorado, she moved back to Ohio to be closer to family. She has been teaching at Columbus City Schools since 2011.

Mrs. Medwid says, "It doesn't take long to recognize that the Whetstone community is something special-something truly unique. Getting the chance to participate in the clap-in on the first day of school really showed me how inclusive and extraordinary the Whetstone family is!"

**Mejia, Michelle, Spanish**

Mrs. Mejia attended Mount Vernon Nazarene University, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Ashland University, where she earned her Bachelor's Plus in World Language Education K-12. She received her teacher

certification in TESOL at The Ohio State University and is licensed to teach Spanish & TESOL (ESL). She began teaching in 2002 and joined Whetstone in 2012. She teaches Spanish 1 and 3. She is the June 2019 advisor for the Costa Rica trip. In her free time, she enjoys trying new restaurants in the Columbus food scene, biking and hiking in the metro parks, and playing with her twin children.

She says, "I chose Whetstone to be part of a community I could be proud of: the academics, diversity of student population, and the extracurricular activities offered to students, strong parental support, and the opportunity to work with motivated, sincere individuals. It has been a wonderful decision." She also encourages prospective students to come to the

school. "Whetstone offers many academic and extra-curricular opportunities for students. All students can find clubs, classes, and activities that interest them. The staff here is devoted about what it does, parents are highly supportive of our school, and students are empowered in and outside of the classroom. There are even wonderful possibilities to travel abroad!"

**Monda, Joseph, Math**

Mr. Monda attended The Ohio State University, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a Master's in Math Education. He is licensed in Mathematics 7 to 12 and began teaching in 1992 at Whetstone.

He coaches track and cross country and teaches Math II and Pre-Calculus. He was named Whetstone PTA Educator of the Year in 2012.

Mr. Monda says, "Whetstone is a great place for students to grow both academically and socially. There is great diversity here at Whetstone and a lot to choose from if you get involved in any type of activity you will be rewarded."

**Moorer, Deanna, Art**

Mrs. Moorer attended The Ohio State University where she earned her Bachelor of Art Education in 2010 and Master of Art Education in 2017. She is licensed to teach Visual Arts, Pre-K to 12. She began teaching in 2011 and joined

Whetstone in 2014. She teaches Art Survey 1, Sculpture and Ceramics and Multiple Disabilities art. She received a Dream Grant in 2015.

She says, "I chose Whetstone because of the great location, staff, and students. It is a really good environment for me to work in and I greatly enjoy it." For students, "lots of opportunities are available here. No matter what you are interested in, you can find someone else who shares that same interest."

Morgan, Rita, Math

Ms. Morgan joined the Whetstone staff this fall after teaching at Briggs and South High Schools. She currently teaches Math 3 and College Algebra. Ms. Morgan graduated from The Ohio State University in 2008 and 2009 with a B.S. in Mathematics and an M.Ed in Mathematics Education. She will complete an M.A. in Mathematics at Otterbein next summer. Ms. Morgan served in the United States Army from 1984-1988 where she was assigned to the White House Communications Agency. Her unit traveled worldwide and set up satellite communications systems for the President of the United States. She really enjoys being at Whetstone where the staff has been so welcoming and helpful.

Mundy, Troy, ISS / PEAK

Mr. Mundy is a Columbus native where he grew up going through the CCS school system, before

graduating from Gahanna-Lincoln in 2013. He earned his Bachelor's in Business from Ohio Christian University where he graduated with Cum Laude Honor. While at OCU, Mr. Mundy was a member of FCA and a captain of the men's basketball team, where he led the Trailblazers in points, assists, and steals. He is currently the ISS/PEAK teacher here at Whetstone while being a licensed CCS substitute teacher for the district. He loves giving back to the youth and has spent three summers working sports camps in San Francisco, California. Mr. Mundy is the current Head JV Boys' Basketball coach and the Assistant Varsity Boys' Basketball coach here for the Whetstone Boys' Basketball Program. He coaches an AAU travel team for the Mid-Ohio Pumas and trains young men & women in basketball during the off-season. This is his second year working for the district, as he served as the Special Education Instructional Aide at Gables Elementary last year.

Mr. Mundy says, "I am very excited and feel a warm welcome into the Whetstone family and community. Whetstone has given me a great opportunity to transition into the education & coaching world. I love being a part of something special here in helping our kids achieve their goals while being productive members of their community and preparing for the real-world after high school."



Murray, Christopher, Art

Mr. Murray attended the Columbus College of Art and Design, where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Art and The Ohio State University, where he earned a Master of Art Education. He is licensed to teach K-12 Visual Art. He began his career

in 1993 and came to Whetstone in 2008. He teaches Computer Graphics and Photography. In his spare time he does mobile audio recording, mixing and post-production.

Mr. Murray says, "Whetstone has a tradition of great arts programming. Vocal music, fine art, jazz, and don't forget the marching and concert bands. Strong academics, sports, and community involvement top off the reasons Whetstone is a great place to work."



Nuce, Karen, Science

Ms. Nuce attended West Virginia University, where she earned her BS in Biology and Secondary Education and The Ohio State University for graduate school. She also attended The University of Eastern Michigan for her Project Lead

the Way Engineering Certification. She is licensed for Biology and General Science, 7-12, AP Biology, AP Environmental Science, and Engineering Design. She began teaching in Columbus City Schools in 2009 and came to Whetstone in 2014. Currently she teaches AP Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, and Biology. She has worked as a Senior Chemist and Manager of Nutritional Chemistry at Nestle Quality Assurance

Laboratory and as an Environmental Engineering Analyst for American Electric Power. She was one of 50 high school science teachers nationwide chosen to participate in the FDA Food Science Education Program in Washington DC. She was named Educator of the Year at West High School. She received several awards while at Nestle, and was the recipient of the Betsy Bhasker Innovation Award at West High School in the Spring of 2014. She has previously coached cheerleaders, advised Key Club and worked with Service Above Self for many years.

She says, "The summer before I applied to teach at Whetstone, I took a week long training course here for AP Environmental Science. I got to meet several of the teachers and a few students, as well as to work in the surrounding outdoor area completing our labs. All of these things attracted me to Whetstone and I enjoy being here. For a science teacher to have access to the amazing "outdoor classroom" that is the Whetstone campus is an amazing opportunity!"



Patrick, David, ESL teacher

David Patrick was born and raised in Clintonville. He attended Xavier University in Cincinnati for his BA in English ('94), Ohio Dominican for TESOL licensure, and Ashland University for his MFA in creative nonfiction ('09). After

undergrad, Mr. Patrick volunteered for the US Peace Corps and taught English as a Foreign Language in the Republic of Macedonia. Living abroad and learning a second language prompted him to pursue a career in teaching English as a Second Language. He has been with CCS for over 20 years, having worked at West and Centennial previously. He is excited to be back home in Clintonville and teaching ESL at Whetstone.

Peterson, Jeffrey, Custodial Staff

Mr. Peterson joined the Whetstone staff in 2017 after being a floater in the CCS district. He enjoys crossword puzzles, assembling models, watching sports and going to the movies. Mr. Peterson likes his position at Whetstone because "the people here are cool."



Pfeifer, Joel, Social Worker

Mr. Pfeifer earned his B.A. in Psychology from The University of Chicago and his Master of Social Work (MSW) from The Ohio State University. He also holds a Master of Education (M.Ed.) from The Ohio State University. He is a Licensed

Independent Social Worker (LISW-S) with training and supervision designation. Mr. Pfeifer began working in Columbus City Schools in 2010 and joined Whetstone in 2012. He has been an advisor for Whetstone's LIFT CREW program, which is a high school transition program that welcomes freshmen and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their high school experience. He has served as a family therapist, private tutor and played football for the University of Chicago. He was a research assistant at the University of Chicago Department of Psychiatry

where he assisted in developing a coding system for parent-child interactions of families with children with ADHD. Mr. Pfeifer also works part-time as a therapist specializing in the treatment of anxiety and depression.

He says, "Whetstone provides students with the invaluable experience of interacting and learning with students from diverse socioeconomic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. The experience of working with others from diverse backgrounds will be a tremendous asset to students no matter what field of work or course of study they choose to pursue after they graduate from Whetstone."



Poff, Donald, Testing Coordinator

Mr. Poff attended Otterbein where he earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. He is licensed for K-8 all subjects and High School Vocational Education. He began teaching in 1984 and joined Whetstone in 2000. Mr.

Poff's duties at Whetstone relate to district and state testing for students. He is an artist and holds coaching certificates. His son is a 2017 graduate of Whetstone.

Mr. Poff encourages students to consider Whetstone for its "diversity and great educational path."

Radde, Scott, English

Mr. Radde earned his Bachelor's Degree in English (7-12) from the University of Findlay and his Reading Endorsement Certificate (K-12) from The Ohio State University. He earned his Master's Degree in Literacy (K-12) from Walden University. He is licensed to teach Reading (K-12) and English (7-12). He began teaching in 2001 and joined Whetstone in 2009. He teaches English and AP English for grade 11. He holds his coaching certificate.

Mr. Radde says, "Whetstone ALWAYS has a positive connotation in the CCS community. It is a school that values education and is "forward thinking" in its approach to providing a quality education to each and every student. Whetstone offers students a variety of educational opportunities that are second to none. Whetstone offers many programs to engage students, which truly gives them a "voice" in their journey through high school. And lastly, Whetstone is indeed a family. Your students are truly valued and will leave here prepared for college and/or career opportunities."



Randolph, Mitch, Teacher of the Visually Impaired

Mr. Randolph joined the Whetstone Staff in 2019 after beginning his career at Leawood Elementary School in 1998. He is a graduate from University of Toledo and Ohio State University where he

earned a B.S. in Teaching of the Visually Impaired and a Master's in Teaching and Learning. Mr. Randolph is an Intervention Specialist in the Special Education

Program at Whetstone. Mr. Randolph enjoys working with the students, staff and community here at Whetstone High School.



Ray, Chris, Theatre

Mr. Ray is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre and a Master of Education in Drama Education (K-12). He began his career at West High School in 2012 before joining

the Whetstone staff in 2018. He has expertise in acting, directing, technical directing, and teaching. At Whetstone, Mr. Ray is teaching Theatre History & Performance, Technical Theatre & Production, Acting One, Acting Two, and Theatre Seminar. Some families may recognize Mr. Ray as he shares, "I student taught at Dominion Middle School, during the school year in 2011-2012, under the excellent direction of Ms. Emily Foster Whittaker."

Mr. Ray says, "I love the positive energy and excitement for building up the arts as a unified front at Whetstone!"



Reiner, Kimberly, Math

Ms. Reiner attended Northern Illinois University, Capital University and Case Western Reserve University. She has a B.S. in Mathematical Science. She is licensed to teach grades 7 to 12 integrated math and grades 7 to 12

integrated language arts. She began her career in 2012 and has experience in math, English, computer science, violin, drama/theater and art therapy. She joined Whetstone in 2016. Ms. Reiner has taught Algebra, Geometry, AP Calculus AB, Exploring Computer Science, English 9, English 10 and OGT Test Prep.

Ms. Reiner takes dance lessons in Clintonville and says, "I love how nice and welcoming everybody has been toward me."



Richards, Jessica, Science

Mrs. Richards attended Miami University (Oxford), where she earned a B.S. in Life Science Education, a B.A. in Zoology, and an MAT in teaching Biology. She is licensed to teach Life Science Education 7 – 12. During her

Master's Degree program she studied abroad in Belize, Mexico and Namibia. She began teaching in 2005 and joined Whetstone in 2008. She teaches Biology and AP Environmental Science.

Mrs. Richards says, "Whetstone has a great reputation and it is located in a great area. I love being able to teach AP Environmental Science right near the parks and the river so that I can use those areas for my classroom. Whetstone is a great school with great teachers who care a lot. It has a diverse student population and a variety of opportunities to meet the needs of all students."

**Riggs, Karen, American Sign Language**

Ms. Riggs attended Columbus State and earned an AA in Interpreting/Transliteration. She attended Western Governor's University for her BA in Education and Graduate - ELL, ASL.

She is licensed to teach American Sign Language K-12, TESOL K-12 and Elementary K-5. She began teaching in 2008 and joined Whetstone in 2011. She teaches American Sign Language Levels I, II, III, and two Columbus State courses for the College Credit Plus program. She has a credential in Educational Interpreting and advises the Multi-cultural club.

She says, "I chose Whetstone because of the overwhelming support that was given to my subject area. I was excited to be able to develop and build a unique program that I feel is applicable to many career paths. I also enjoy the small-school atmosphere because it allows me to really get to know my students and other staff members. There's something for everyone at Whetstone. From theater arts to physics, and from football to Poetry Slam, there are academic and extra-curricular areas to appeal to anyone."

Rohrer, Jerry, Counselor

Mr. Rohrer graduated from Urbana University, University of Dayton, and Wright State University with his B.S. in Education, M.S. Counselor Education, and Ed. S - Ed. Administration. He holds licenses in general science and counseling, and has experience/expertise in technology. Mr. Rohrer serves as the Student Success Counselor at Whetstone.

**Routzong, Janet, Principal**

Ms. Routzong earned her Bachelor's in English Education at Ohio Dominican University and earned her Master's in Educational Administration at Ashland University. She is a licensed High School and Middle School Principal. She

began her career in education in 1990 and took over leadership at Whetstone in 2012.

She says, "Whetstone HS simply has it all!!!! Quality Educational Experience, several opportunities to earn college credits, fabulous performing arts department, amazing visual arts, more athletic teams than any other school in the city, clubs galore. There's something spectacular for everyone!!"

**Sampson, Jill, Special Education**

Ms. Sampson earned her B.S. in Education from Ohio University. Her areas of expertise include behavior management. At Whetstone she teaches 9-12, all academics.

Ms. Sampson says, "I love all of the opportunities students are offered at Whetstone. There is something for everyone."

Schwab, Anna, Counselor

Mrs. Schwab joined the Whetstone counseling team in 2019. She began her teacher career at East Liverpool High School and moved to Columbus in 2002 where she was a math teacher at Centennial High School. She entered the counseling field in 2013 at Briggs High School and was there until she joined the Whetstone Staff. She is a graduate of Westminster College, Slippery Rock University, and the University of Dayton where she earned a B.S. in Mathematics, a Master's in Education, and a Master's in School Counseling. She says that she is excited to join the Whetstone staff and is glad to help strengthen the bond between school, community, and parents.

Sheets, Dana, Food Service

Ms. Sheets has been at Whetstone since 2012. She works in food service and shares that she went to WHS for a year. She enjoys playing cards and says, "I like how friendly all the staff is."

**Smith, David, ESL, Journalism**

Mr. Smith attended Bowling Green State University, where he earned his B.A. in English and creative writing and B.S. in English Education and Journalism. He attended The Ohio State University, where he earned his

M.A., in Education. He is licensed to teach Language Arts 7-12 and endorsed in Reading K-12, Computer Technology K-12, and TESOL K-12. Mr. Smith teaches ESL, Newspaper (The Whetstone Messenger), and the Legend Yearbook. He advises the Key Club, National Honor Society, In the Know, and Chess Club. He is an Adobe Certified Associate in Visual Communication, Interactive Media, and Web Authoring. Mr. Smith has been a busboy, a wedding DJ, a web developer and the General Manager of WBGU-FM (Bowling Green State's student-run radio station). He has been honored as an Adobe Educational Leader 2005-present. His children are future Whetstone students.

He says, "Whetstone represents the diversity, opportunity and promise of this city and I am honored to be a part of this tradition. Whetstone offers students more curricular and extracurricular opportunities than any other school in the city. Whatever future you have planned, whatever interests you have, there's a class or an activity for all your needs."

**Smith, Mike, Custodial Staff**

Mr. Smith joined the Whetstone staff in 2018. He likes to bowl and also works at Burlington Coat Factory. When asked about Whetstone, Mr. Smith says, "I like the people that I work around."

Souvé, Kayla, Athletic Trainer

Ms. Souvé received her Bachelor's Degree in Athletic Training from The Ohio State University and her Master's at the University of South Carolina. She is a certified and licensed Athletic Trainer who works with all WHS student athletes. Additionally, she is certified in CPR/First Aid, manual therapy techniques, and as a Corrective Exercises Specialist. Her experience prior to WHS includes working with college athletes and dance majors, as well as professional ballet dancers. She has experience in just about every setting and competition level you can think of, and specializes in manual therapy, evaluation, rehabilitation, and acute/emergency care.

Ms. Souvé is from Dayton, and in high school she did Irish Dancing, ran track, and was a member of the crew team (rowing). She is enjoying her time here at Whetstone.

**Stokes, Angela, Special Education**

Ms. Stokes received her B.A. in Interdisciplinary Education from Marietta College and her M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Ohio Dominican University. She is licensed in Elementary Education 1-8, Special

Education K-12 and Severe Behavior Disorders. She began her career in Alexandria, Virginia (7 miles from the White House) and came to WHS in 2018. At Whetstone, Ms. Stokes teaches social studies in our Special Education Department.

When asked about Whetstone, Ms. Stokes says, "Everyone in the building is friendly and supportive at all levels. I've died and gone to heaven!"

Thaxton, Jennifer, Special Education

Ms. Thaxton has been the Special Education Coordinator at Whetstone since 2015. She earned her B.S., MBA, and M.S. Ed. from the University of Evansville, Keller Graduate School of Management and the University of Dayton. She is licensed in Special Education Mild/Moderate K-12. She began her career in CCS in 2007.

Ms. Thaxton says, "Whetstone is an inclusive environment for all students."

Thomas, Gary, Business / Technology Department

Mr. Thomas joined the Whetstone staff in 2019 after beginning his career at Brookhaven High School in 2003. In addition, Mr. Thomas has held various positions in telephony software and engineering services, software development, network intelligence, and operations at the AT&T Company. He has also taught computer software development, Project Lead the Way (PLTW), Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel), Industrial Technology, and College Credit Plus courses.

Mr. Thomas holds a AAS in Computer Science, BS in Computer Science / Business Administration, MS in Management Information Systems, MA in Education, MOS certification, and Program Management PMI Certified.

Mr. Thomas says, "I feel the Whetstone environment allows us to support one another, interact, share experiences and our modern-day life struggles. Having this open bond with others is what builds valuable relationships, along with giving us a deeper sense of belonging."

**Tippery, Andrea, Music**

Ms. Tippery attended Xavier University, where she earned her BS in Music Education, cum laude and The Ohio State University, where she earned an MA in String Pedagogy. She is licensed to teach Music K-12.

She began teaching in 1998 and joined Whetstone in 2013. She is a city-wide strings specialist and teaches Orchestra at Whetstone High School. She has performed in ensembles with the Moody Blues, Don McLean, and most recently Black Violin. Ms. Tippery says, "I like the opportunities that I see for students at Whetstone. The music program is strong. There are lots of good things happening here."

**Tokar, Paula, Science**

Ms. Tokar earned her Bachelor of Science in Zoology with a Minor in Spanish and Master of Science in Zoology from The Ohio State University and Teacher Education Licensure through Capital University.

She is licensed in AYA Science and began teaching in 2005. She started at Whetstone in 2007 and teaches Physical Science, Chemistry and AP Chemistry.

Ms. Tokar says, "I live in Clintonville and enjoy the diversity and the opportunities of this college community. Our school offers a number of curricular and extracurricular opportunities and we have vibrant Post Secondary Enrollment Options for our students."

**Toland, Tanya, English**

Mrs. Toland attended Asbury University, where she earned her B.A. in English, and the University of Dayton, where she received her Master's in Education. She is licensed to teach English, grades 7-12. Mrs.

Toland began her teaching career in 1994, and she has 6 years of experience teaching middle school, including one year of special education. She has taught high school English for 12 years, including Humanities 9 and 10, Introduction to World

Literature 10, American Literature 11, AP Language and Composition, as well as World Literature 12. This year, Mrs. Toland will be teaching English 9. She has been teaching at Whetstone since 2016.

Mrs. Toland says, "I truly enjoy teaching at Whetstone, because the faculty is amazing, especially the English Department!"

Wagenbrenner, Beth, School Treasurer

Ms. Wagenbrenner attended Ohio Wesleyan University and has worked in an educational setting since 1998. She serves as School Treasurer and worked for 15 years prior as the attendance/discipline secretary at Centennial High School. She is an alumna of Whetstone High School, Class of 1978.



West, Christy, School Nurse

Nurse West attended Mt. Carmel School of Nursing, where she earned a Diploma of Nursing and The Ohio State University, where she earned a Bachelor's in Psychology/Counseling. She began in education in 2000 and joined Whetstone

in 2014. She has worked as a Hospital Nurse, Home Health Visiting Nurse, and School Nurse at Clinton MS, Medina MS, N. Linden ES, and Gladstone ES prior to becoming Whetstone's School Nurse.

She says, "I love having the opportunity to talk to high school students on a deeper level about their concerns and hopes."

Additional Faculty and Staff include:

Certificated Staff: Kathryn Johnson, Christine Jonard, Katrisha Tenor

Attendance Secretary: Lisa Hord

Instructional Assistants: Simon Bush, Medra Corouthers, Ollie Hightower, Christina Mayo, Sherie Savko, Theresa Thurman, Tina Willis

ESL Instructional Assistant: Sandrila Alkhouri-Blevins (Arabic)

Mac Conkling
John Harrison
Rashad Mitchell
Amy Tichy
Tara Ottey
Dan Trimner
Dean Washington

Tutor: Kevin Myers

Security: Rick McClananhan

Custodial Supervisor: James Shepherd





Michael Smith

STAY OR GO?

City-dwelling parents are refusing to join the exodus of young families to suburban school districts, choosing instead to stay in the homes and neighborhoods they love and create the schools they want for their children.

BY JOEL OLIPHINT

PHOTOS BY TESSA BERG

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAELA SCHUETT

Lawyer Gus Dahlberg and his wife moved to Clintonville in 2003 while she was pregnant. The topic of schools came up often, and he kept hearing the same thing from his neighbors: Public schools in Clintonville are OK, but you may want to look at private schools. And be careful when you get to middle school.

Meanwhile, Dahlberg and his family became close with other families in the community, many of whom, like Dahlberg, eventually decided to send their kids to public elementary schools. As parents mingled at the

bus stop on weekday mornings, they began to discuss what to do about their kids' education beyond the elementary level. "They all said, 'We like where we're at,'" Dahlberg says. "We like the schools we're in. We like the people we're with. Why should we have to leave Clintonville? What's wrong with these schools that people are so afraid of?"

Nobody had answers, but one parent, Laura Kraus, had recently read a book titled "How to Walk to School: Blueprint for a Neighborhood School Renaissance," which detailed how author and parent

Jacqueline Edelberg partnered with other moms, artists, local businesses and co-author and school principal Susan Kurland to transform Chicago's rundown, failing Nettelhorst Elementary into a beautiful, successful urban school. Coincidentally, Edelberg was visiting Columbus on a speaking tour the summer of 2011, so Kraus reached out to her to ask if some Clintonville parents could pick her brain. Edelberg agreed, and that conversation over a bottle of wine around a kitchen table became the catalyst for the formation of a parent-led grassroots group called Clintonville Go Public.

"It went from a promotional effort to: Let's dig in and make a community effort to invest in the school system and get people to realize they don't have to run from Clintonville when the kids turn 10," Dahlberg says.

"Lots of people who are in a city look at [the suburbs] and say, 'You know, I actually don't want to spend the rest of my life eating at an Olive Garden,' " Edelberg tells me over the phone. "I like my house. I have friends. My kids have friends. I have places I eat that I think are yummy. The only reason people left my neighborhood was because of the schools. But it seems silly to leave all that behind. So the question is: How do you create a threshold so that enough like-minded people all decide they'll jump with you? How many kids would you need to make it feel like you weren't a lunatic?"

Like Dahlberg, Merion Village resident Ken Flower felt a bond with his community. "People love German Village and Merion Village. They're proud of the neighborhood," Flower says. "But one of our consistent weak spots is schools. You hear of a lot of young professionals moving in, getting married, having kids, and then kids reach age 3 or 4 and they move out of the neighborhood."

Flower—a pastor, Bexley Public Library employee and father of two (with another on the way)—didn't want to leave, and he knew others probably felt the same way. Shiloh Todorov,



Mary Pajor, left, the mother of a Whetstone High School student and a member of Clintonville Go Public with Whetstone High School Principal Janet Routzong

director of the German Village Society, connected him with other neighborhood parents who were thinking critically about the school issue, and they all met with the society's Long Range Planning Committee in summer 2012. As a result of that meeting, Flower and the other parents created and distributed a short, simple survey to better understand the community's thoughts on their neighborhood schools. Particularly telling were responses to the question, "Do you plan on moving when your kids reach school age?" About 80 percent of respondents said, "Yes," and for most of them, the primary reason was poor school options.

Pretty soon, Flower and a group of parents officially organized, meeting every other week and naming their group Southside STAY (Standing Together to Advance Youth). Flower and others had also read "How to Walk to School," and they knew about Clintonville Go Public. "They were about a year ahead in terms of organizing," Flower says. "We invited Gus and Laura to one of our first meetings to tell their story. They were a huge help."

Both STAY and Go Public emphasize the importance of neighborhood schools and the "feeder pattern," which Columbus City Schools formally implemented about six years ago. It's a streamlined way for students to move from building to building. Previously, students might have attended a nearby elementary school and then graduated to a middle school on the other side of town. Now, with some exceptions due to school closings and the school-choice lottery system, students who start kindergarten together remain together all the way through high school.

"You get that in Upper Arlington, which has a tremendous sense of community," Dahlberg says. "There's a backbone, and everything feeds off of that. We really wanted that here. It's here already, and it would exist without us, but it needs nurturing. It needs promotion."

The theory goes like this: If a group of kids and their highly engaged parents stay together for the long haul, they'll see the same positive results every year, and those results will spill over to other students. "It's a rising-tide-floats-

BLUEPRINT FOR RENEWAL

A simple, bold idea led parents in one Chicago neighborhood to remake an elementary school—and detail the toil and triumph in a book.

Jacqueline Edelberg and Susan Kurland delve into the Nettelhorst Elementary story in more detail in their book, "How to Walk to School: Blueprint for a Neighborhood School Renaissance." The approach is as simple as it is audacious: They made a list of needed improvements at Nettelhorst, convinced themselves they could make most of those improvements in nine months and then set out to transform the school.

They worked from the outside in, first removing any signs containing the word "no," then lifting the shades on the windows and painting

the doors bright colors. "We knew if it looked like a halfway house, no one would walk in the door—assuming they could find the front door," Edelberg told me during a phone interview from her home in Chicago.

The parent volunteers had no budget, so they asked local stores to donate paint and recruited contractors to adopt rooms to complete. Nettelhorst moms befriended designers and artists who refreshed the interior. More than \$2 million worth of goods and services were donated over a period of two years. "You have to get the whole community to wrap its arms around the school," Edelberg says.

Edelberg says tracking down new school supplies, books and other services was easy. "You just have to ask," she says. The hardest part was changing the minds of neighborhood parents who had never considered sending their children to a school like Nettelhorst. "Changing the community's perception took up most of our energy," she says.



Stewart Alternative Elementary Principal Ebone Johnson with Ken Flower of Southside STAY and his daughter June, a first-grade student

all-boats theory," Dahlberg says. "If you have that base in the system, it will improve everyone's lot. That's an essential theory in all of this."

Edelberg says her experience with Nettelhorst in Chicago proves the theory. After she and a group of moms persuaded others to send their kids to Nettelhorst, over time, everyone's test scores improved, not just the new kids'.

Go Public and STAY aren't trying to replace parent-teacher associations. They say part of their job is to ensure each school in the neighborhood has a thriving PTA. And while most school-reform groups tend to focus on hot-button issues like curriculum, standardized testing, No Child Left Behind and other various metrics, Go Public and STAY try not to get involved in those issues, which is harder than it sounds. Get a group of involved parents together who are passionate about the education of their own children and the children in the community, and those divisive issues will undoubtedly arise. "It's easy to divert the conversation by talking about curriculum, and then it's about the whole

school system and what's happening at the state or district level," Dahlberg says. "And that's not what our focus is."

Columbus City Schools spokesman Jeff Warner says the mission of Go Public and STAY doesn't conflict with the district's philosophy, even though school choice plays an important role in the district's offerings. "We want the same things," Warner says. "We want the neighborhood schools to not be questioned in the least. The questions that these community organizations bring to the table help us think about things differently. They push us to be better. Their level of commitment to neighborhood schools is a breath of fresh air."

While Nettelhorst experienced a drastic turnaround in the span of nine months, the efforts of Go Public and STAY combine short- and long-term goals. Both groups differ in context. While STAY wants young couples to see the area's elementary schools as a viable option, Clintonville Go Public says the community in recent years has begun to embrace

the neighborhood elementary schools—Clinton, Indian Springs and Colerain. [Disclosure: My two kids attend a Clintonville elementary school.] But persuading parents to consider Dominion Middle School and Whetstone High School will take more time and effort.

Part of that effort is marketing and rebranding—changing the community's perception of a school. When Dahlberg first attended a Clintonville school fair years ago, he was disappointed by what he saw. "All the private schools and schools from outside the neighborhood had these slick brochures and pamphlets," he says. "We'd get to Indian Springs and Clinton, and they were dittos. They had to have been made on a Xerox machine from 1978. So the district needs help selling itself. We are now in an age of school choice. If you want kids to stay, you've got to sell your program."

Some of Go Public's rebranding effort involves changing the accepted terminology. Dahlberg, for instance, hates the term "feeder," so Go Public instead uses "pathway." "'Feeder' sounds like you're going to get chewed up and spit out," he says. "'Pathway' says you're following a path to college or a trade."

STAY has focused much of its effort so far on Stewart Alternative Elementary, a German Village school that initially accepted students only through the Columbus City Schools lottery. In 2013, STAY petitioned and eventually won approval from the Columbus Education Commission to make Stewart a partial neighborhood school, albeit with smaller boundaries than STAY had hoped for. (Stewart's new borders fall within German Village proper, and many of the STAY families live in Merion Village and Schumacher Place.) Flower and others have been promoting the school by giving tours to prospective families, and the group plans to assign a reading level to every book in the library so teachers can easily find the right books for each student.

At Nettelhorst in Chicago, many of the changes were outward. Common wisdom says if you change the culture of a school, the climate will change. But Edelberg and her partners were betting if they changed the climate, the culture would follow. Doors were painted, and local artists were recruited to create murals in the hallways. Last year Clintonville Go Public took a page from this play-book and raised more than \$18,000 by hosting a prom for grownups; that money was used to revamp the lobby of Dominion Middle School with new furniture and a mural. "It's a simple thing, but it makes such a difference!" Dahlberg says. "Before, you walked in and didn't know where you were going. Now it's very clear that this is the waiting area. There's a couch and chairs and a rug."

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This fall Go Public hosted a Masquerade Ball; proceeds will go toward technology upgrades at Whetstone and Dominion, which doesn't have Wi-Fi access throughout the building. The group is also working with Dominion principal Dottie Flanagan to write grants for an after-school program.

In the neighborhood-school model, buy-in from the community—including local businesses and adults with no children or grown children—is important. But buy-in from the school principal is just as crucial. STAY has been working closely with Stewart principal Ebone Johnson. “She was excited about our desires and wanted us to be involved,” Flower says. “Having a principal who was wanting the partnership and excited about it was huge.” And Johnson says partnering with STAY has been every school’s dream. “What they’re trying to do will affect every child in our building,” Johnson says. “Their approach is working. On any given day, we have between three and five parents or other members of the German Village community in our building.”

Go Public similarly touts its partnerships with principals Janet Routzong at Whetstone and Flanagan at Dominion, along with the elementary school principals; in interviews, these school leaders echoed Go Public’s enthusiasm and resolve.

Other similar-minded parent groups such as TEAM Berwick, Northwest STARS and Short North Parents have recently formed in other areas of the district. But all these groups face giant challenges, not the least of which is the damaged reputation of Columbus City Schools. Try as it may, the district is struggling to distance itself from the data-manipulation scandal that was brought to light by a *Columbus Dispatch* investigation. An 18-month investigation of the district by state auditor Dave Yost, completed in December 2013, confirmed what the reporters had found: The practice of falsifying records to improve students’ test scores (and thereby the school’s standing on the annual state report card) was widespread. In November 2013, nearly 70 percent of Columbus voters rejected a Columbus City Schools levy—its first defeat in 23 years—

signaling that the district had not yet earned back the trust of the city.

And it’s not over. Just this summer, state investigators subpoenaed the records of eight current or former employees of Whetstone. Routzong was not principal at Whetstone during the 2010-11 school year, but she’s still dealing with repercussions of the scandal. “My goal that first year—and it still is my goal—was to establish and rebuild the faith in leadership of Whetstone High School and Columbus City Schools,” Routzong says.

The lengths to which former district employees went to ensure good grades on the Ohio Department of Education’s annual report card underscores just how much weight everyone—the state, local schools, prospective and current parents—places on those ratings, which the state tweaked last year to mirror an old-fashioned grade card with marks of A through F in different areas. For instance, in the achievement category, Dominion received a C (79.5 percent) for its “performance index” but got an F (42.9 percent) for “indicators met” in 2013-14.

“Most often I hear about the report card,” Dominion principal Flanagan says. “It’s not a failing school, and people need to understand what the report card means before we decide whether or not a school is failing.” One example Flanagan gives is the report card’s measurement of how well a school closed the achievement gap among students regardless of income, race, ethnicity or disability. “We went from an 8 percent closure [in 2012-13] to a 68 percent closure, which is huge,” she says. “But on the state report card that looks like a D. So we’re doing everything right, but working in this new report card system and helping the public understand exactly what it means is a challenge we face every day.”

“Test scores don’t tell you everything about a school,” Flower says, noting Stewart Alternative Elementary’s most recent “D.” For instance, in Ohio, third-grade students must now meet a minimum score on the state reading test to advance to fourth grade, and all but three third-graders at Stewart passed. “To me, that’s really encouraging,” Flower says.

The state report card is a measurable result, but many of the groups’ efforts aren’t measurable; a community’s perception of a school is a nebulous thing until it isn’t. “I won’t see much of a difference while my kids are in school,” admits Dahlberg, whose children attend Clinton Elementary. “Do you know how many minds we’d have to change in Whetstone’s educational base to make that change in five years? It’ll happen in increments, not in large chunks. I’m OK with that. You can’t change something on this scale overnight. You do it one conversation at a time.”

In September, Edelberg and former Nettelhorst principal Susan Kurland returned to Columbus to speak with a group of parents, educators and community leaders as part of the multi-day Great Placemakers Lab conference. During an evening Q&A session in the second-floor ballroom of the Westin Columbus, members of Go Public and STAY peppered the speakers with questions, discussing what the next steps should be for schools like Whetstone and Stewart.

“This is a huge opportunity for Stewart,” Edelberg told the audience. “You can make it anything you want!”

After the presentation, I spoke to two Whetstone moms involved with Go Public; their passion was contagious as they trumpeted the school’s academic rigor and extracurricular offerings. Mary Pajor has graduated two sons from Whetstone, and they both received college scholarships—one at the University of Alabama, the other at the University of South Carolina; her daughter is a junior at Whetstone this year. The mothers also heaped praise on principal Routzong and described the school as the best-kept secret in Clintonville, though their goal is for the positive aspects of the school to be more well-known. “It’s such a great, vibrant school, but people don’t realize that because they hear all the old negative stuff,” Pajor says.

It was a persuasive sales pitch. By the end of the conversation, I could envision my own kids going to Whetstone. I also realized part of Go Public’s campaign had already reached my family. Last year I brought my kindergartener to a Whetstone “Pathway Night” before a Friday evening football game. My son, his friends, his friends’ parents and I made a tunnel on the field for the players to run through before the game. It was the first time I’d set foot on Whetstone’s campus, and it was fun—even comforting. “Middle school and high school seem so scary. It’s nice to see that these kids are just like your kids, and it’s gonna be OK,” Pajor says.

The neighborhood school movement isn’t revolutionary. It’s merely an avenue for parents and communities to get involved. “The act of engagement is the only thing that matters,” Edelberg says. “We’ve all been sold this bill of goods that has told us that education isn’t within our control. But if people knew they had the power to fix the school on their corner—that they don’t have to wait for somebody to give it to them. They can get a group together that walks in and says, ‘Hi, we are here to help. We want this school to sing, and we will assemble an army to make it happen. Give us your wish list, and let’s make this happen.’ It’s actually doable.”