

The Week At WHMS

Week of January 3, 2022



Thought for the week:

“Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.”

– Anne Lamott

Weekly Calendar: **WELCOME BACK! & Happy New Year!**

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Sat/Sun</u>
1/3	1/4	1/5	1/6	1/7	1/8-1/9
Day 1	Day 2	Day 1	Day 2	Day 1	
Today is a great day for <i>Connections</i> before <i>Content</i> and focus on a smooth re-entry to our routines and expectations	3:00p – faculty meeting	1:15p – PST meeting Club Meets: Art Club; Comic & Graphic Novel; Dignity & Tolerance; 7:30p – PTSA meeting @ HS VCR	All day: PBL training for select departments Club Meets: Science & Robotics	8:45a – RTI meeting	

Instructional tips: (from *Medium*)

“5 Ways to Reset Your Classroom Management Strategy After a Break” by Jessie Alexander (exerpts)
This is the time of the year when behavior expectations and classroom management can start to feel a little stale. Especially after returning from a break, sometimes it can be helpful to give your classroom management strategy a refresh. Here are some of my best tips for injecting some new life into your classroom management strategy.

1. Revisit Classroom Agreements

At the beginning of the year, you most likely spent a lot of time with your students discussing how they wanted their classroom to look and feel. You probably had long discussions about what you expected of them and what they expected of each other so that everyone could focus on learning. It's time to have that conversation again. The best part is, you know them a lot better now! You know what they are good at and you know what they need to work on. Take some time to really discuss this with them. Give them feedback, both positive and constructive, about how they are meeting the agreements you discussed the first week of school. Add new ideas and maybe even change existing ones to better meet their needs moving through the rest of the year. This is also a good opportunity to revisit consequences, too! It is always interesting to hear what students think should happen when someone

breaks a classroom agreement. It usually gives you some good insight into what's really important to them.

2. Set Goals

The new year is always a good time to revisit goals. As a teacher, I always had a few goals I was working on professionally. Sometimes this really helps me to stay motivated when things get hard. Clear, focused meaningful goals can help keep your spirits up through those really tough days. It works the same way for your kids. Now is a great time for them to [set goals](#) and think about what they hope to accomplish by the end of the year. When they are having tough days, you can remind them of their goals to help them reset and refocus. This is also a great opportunity to share goals together as a group and deepen connections and community in your classroom. Make sure to share yours, too! It's a good feeling when your class feels like one big support group.

3. Spice Up Procedures

Raise your hand if you are sick of "1,2,3 eyes on me". Well, your kids are too. That means It's time to pull some new tricks out of the bag. Try switching up some of your daily routines or procedures to create a little more excitement. While I know it can seem scary to deviate from a solid routine, just start by thinking about the times of day that are the most challenging. How can you inject some new life into these parts of the day that feel challenging, annoying or drab?

Start with just one part of the day that has gotten stale, and see if you can try something new. If you can't think of anything on your own, ask someone! Ask your next door neighbor, ask Pinterest or post in your favorite teacher Facebook group.

4. New Incentives

Something that can almost always get a squirrely class excited about changing their behavior is a [new exciting reward](#). Especially since you know what they like by this time in the year, it's easier to come up with things they might be into. It's helpful to think about having separate reward systems for individuals, small groups and the whole class to earn. If you've got much more than that it can be hard to stay consistent, and consistency is key! It is also a good idea to think about tying rewards to specific behaviors that the class or individuals are really struggling with. What are the behaviors that you are constantly redirecting? Build your reward system around those things.

5. Balance Redirections with Positive Praise

I don't know about you, but when behavior is off in my classroom, I can get really negative and have a hard time noticing anything other than bad behavior. It's really easy to forget about that one kid who is doing everything right, when you're busy channeling Viola Swamp because the rest of the class is a hot mess. So here's my trick, for every redirection, give two compliments.

Sometimes it will feel a little silly, but I promise it will help you see both sides of your classroom. Also, we all know kids love positive praise and when they start noticing that you are handing out more of it, they will straighten up to try and get some.

For full article see <https://medium.com/lalilo/5-ways-to-reset-your-classroom-management-strategy-after-a-break-54722a304eed>

Items of importance:

- **WEATHER NOTICE:** we have outdoor recess, outdoor AM line-up, and outdoor PE daily unless it is raining. Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing and outerwear. We only stay indoors if the temperature falls below 30° or the wind chill falls below 28°
- **Have you downloaded the West Hempstead App yet?** It is available in the App Store and Google Play, just search "West Hempstead." This will let you keep track of everything happening in our school and access documents such as this "Week @ WHMS" newsletter.
- *Let me know when you have exciting learning taking place that I can tweet out and be sure to tag @WH_MSRRAMS if you tweet yourself*

Items of interest:

- We are pleased to offer our staff the "Parents as Partners" webinar series with Educational Consultant and Trainer Dr. Jennifer Bashant. These free webinars are accessible live or as recordings. Go to <https://www.whufsd.com/page/parents-as-partners-webinar-series> for more information.
- Our club calendar is available on the website at: <https://www.whufsd.com/o/whms/browse/221769>. Students should listen to AM announcements for the most up-to-date information about meeting dates and locations.
- The **extra help schedule** can be found at: https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1553808/Extra-Help_Schedule_MS_21-22.pdf. Students should take advantage of teachers' availability to do their best work.
- The Homework Center is open after school on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. See details below:

Homework Center Information: 21-22

Homework Center is open 2:45-3:45 on the following days

<u>Day</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Monday	Ms. Healey	257	Support available for any subject, or just a quiet place to work after school.
Wednesday	Ms. Geiger	17	
Thursday	Ms. Rogan	16	

"COVID Corner" Information:

- I cannot say how vital it is that **if your child, or anyone in your home, feels sick, your child MUST REMAIN HOME FROM SCHOOL.** Call the nurse or Mr. Murray for advice on when it is okay to return to school.

- Please remember to **send your child** to school **with a** reusable or paper **mask each day**. A number of students are “forgetting” their masks on a regular basis and asking for masks at the front door.
- **Please send your child to school with a refillable water bottle**. Our water fountains are “COVID-safe” and only the water bottle filler function is available.
- For more information about the COVID vaccine for 5-15 year-olds, go to:
<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov>

Looking ahead:

Monday, January 10: *Day 2*

- Interdisciplinary Teaming Committee, 3:00pm
- PTSA/PTA/SEPTA joint meeting, 7:30pm @ HS VCR

Tuesday, January 11: *Day 1*

- Writers workshop PD with Randi, ELA team
- Department meetings, 3:00pm

Wednesday, January 12: *Day 2*

- PST meeting, 1:15pm
- SEPTA meeting, 7:30pm @ Cornwell

Thursday, January 13: *Day 1*

- Teacher Academy: “Letting Students Lead: Voice, Choice and Self-Assessment in the Classroom”
- STEMposium: virtual model with details TBA

Friday, January 14: *Day 2*

- RTI meeting, 8:45am