

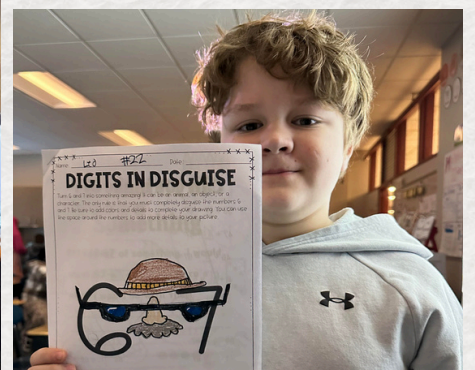
# The Hopkins Herald

DECEMBER EDITION: ELLEN HOPKINS ELEMENTARY

INFORM. INSPIRE. INVOLVE.

## 67 DAYS OF SCHOOL

Thursday, December 11th is day **'six-seven'** at Ellen Hopkins Elementary, and we've turned it into a fun-filled celebration in our classrooms! As annoying as the phrase can be, the bright side is that it's bringing students and staff together with plenty of bonding and giggles!





# The Hopkins Herald



Fourth graders spending time with their Kindergarten buddies!



## MEDIA CENTER MAGIC

The heart of our library definitely isn't too small! Mr. Cox and Mrs. Gjestvang know how to take it to the next level for their students! Always creative, always on theme, and always making reading come alive!



Kindergarteners posing with their turkey creations they made with Mrs. Zaragosa!

## IMPORTANT DATES

**DEC 15-19** WINTER WONDERLAND SPIRIT WEEK  
DRESS UP DAYS ON PAGE 10

**DEC 19** KINDERGARTEN FAMILY EVENT  
GINGERBREAD HOUSES  
11:45 - 12:45

2ND GRADE FAMILY EVENT  
1:30 - 2:30

**DEC 20 - JAN 4** NO SCHOOL  
WINTER BREAK  
ALL BUILDINGS CLOSED

**JAN 5** SCHOOL RESUMES

**JAN 16** 4TH GRADE FAMILY EVENT 1:20-2:00

**JAN 19** NO SCHOOL  
STAFF PD DAY



Instagram  
[@hopkinsspuds](https://www.instagram.com/hopkinsspuds)

**SCHOOL HOURS 7:45 AM - 2:30 PM**



# The Hopkins Herald

## WHEN THE HERD CAME TO HOPKINS

### NDSU Bison Inspire Hopkins Student Leaders



Leadership students at Ellen Hopkins had an unforgettable visit from NDSU Bison players! Student leaders gathered for an inspiring session where the athletes shared stories about teamwork, perseverance, and the importance of strong character both on and off the field.

The Bison emphasized qualities such as **responsibility**, **goal-setting**, and **teamwork**; these are values that align closely with our own leadership expectations at Hopkins. Students had the chance to ask thoughtful questions, learn about college athletics, and hear firsthand how dedication and a positive mindset can open doors to future opportunities.

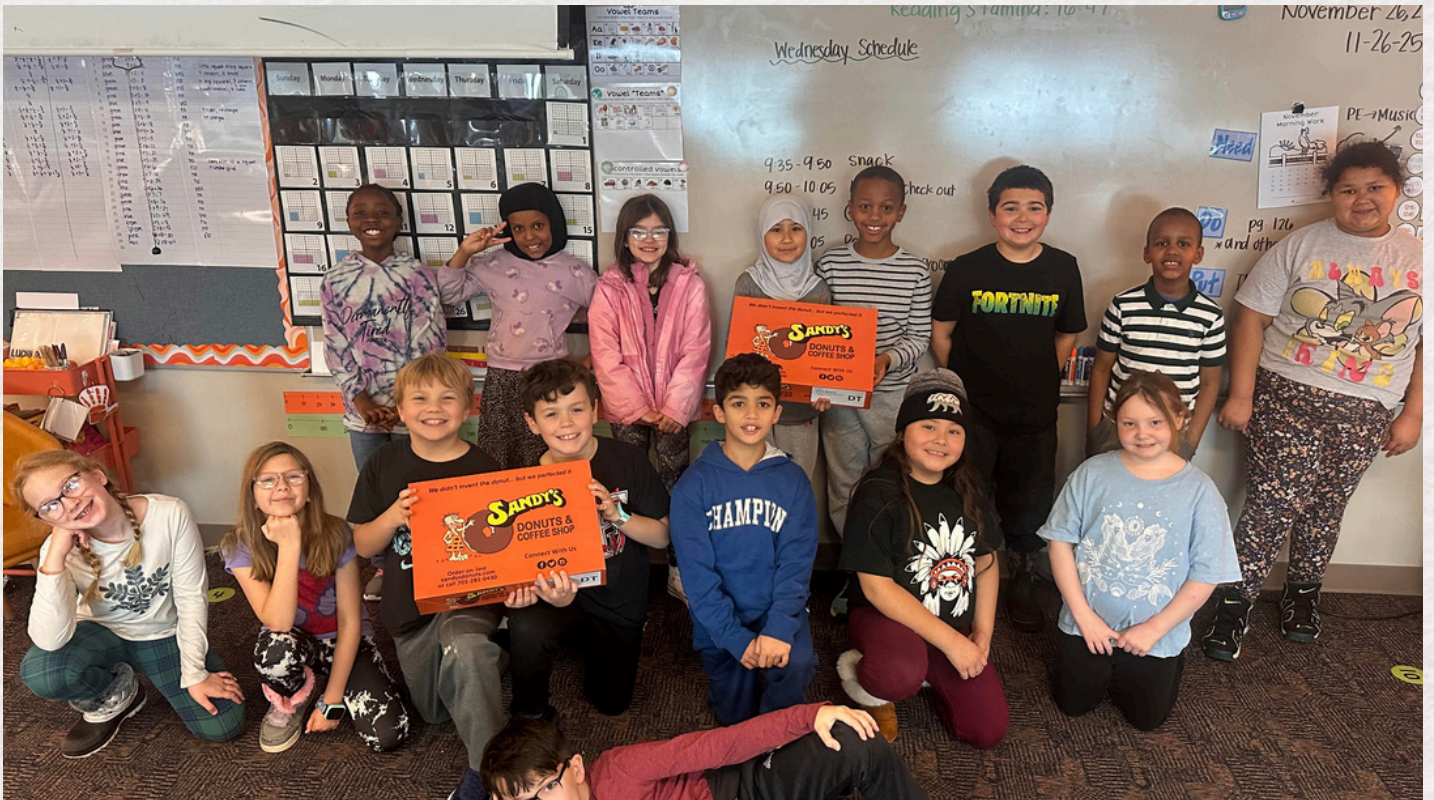
We are grateful to the NDSU Bison for taking the time to connect with our students and for encouraging them to continue growing as leaders within our school and community.





# The Hopkins Herald

## HOPKINS SHINES IN CARING CLOSET DRIVE



Ellen Hopkins wrapped up our 2025-26 Fill Our Caring Closet drive with incredible success. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, we collected an impressive amount of food and hygiene items to support Hopkins students and families in need. Woohoo!

A special shout-out goes to our 4th Grade Leadership team, who played a major role in making this event happen. They gathered items from each classroom, counted and sorted donations, and ensured everything was ready for distribution. Congratulations to Ms. Mosloski's third grade class, who collected the most items and earned a well-deserved donut party! Yay!

Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make this year's Caring Closet drive such a meaningful success.



# The Hopkins Herald

## THE HALLS WERE ALIVE WITH MUSIC, BALLOONS, (AND TURKEYS)!

Our kindergarten team brought pure joy to the halls of Ellen Hopkins as they hosted their very own school-wide parade (inspired by the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade)! Each kindergarten class decorated balloons and proudly marched through the building while music filled the halls.

Adding to the excitement, our kindergarten teachers dressed in **full turkey costumes** (*it was hilarious to say the least*), leading the parade with big energy and even bigger laughs. Their festive spirit set the tone and made the event unforgettable for students and staff.

Classes lined the hallways to cheer them on, turning an ordinary day into a celebration of creativity and community. From colorful balloons to wobbling "turkeys," the parade was a hit for everyone who joined!

**A huge shoutout to our kindergarten team for bringing this festive idea to life and giving our entire school a moment to enjoy together!**





# The Hopkins Herald

## HONORING OUR HEROES



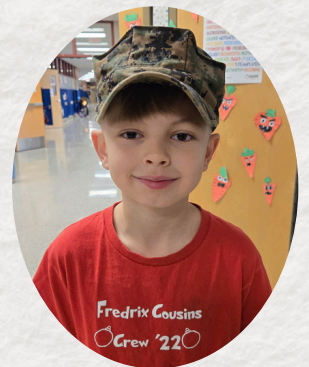
**WALL OF HEROES**

In honor of Veterans Day, students and staff at Ellen Hopkins came together to recognize the brave men and women who have served our country. Throughout the week, classrooms participated in meaningful activities that highlighted the importance of service and sacrifice. Students created heartfelt artwork to express their gratitude, filling our hallways with messages of appreciation and symbols of patriotism. Families were also invited to share photos of the veterans in their lives, creating a beautiful display that connected our school community to the stories and service of loved ones.

Thank you to all the Hopkins families who contributed. We are proud to honor our veterans and celebrate the heroes who inspire us every day.



**MRS. MELBY CAME IN TO READ A BOOK HONORING VETERANS AND SHARED ABOUT HER DAUGHTER, ANNA'S SERVICE IN THE AIR FORCE.**





# The Hopkins Herald

## DRUM & DANCE: A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE ACROSS DISTRICT SCHOOLS

In celebration of Native American Heritage Month, elementary schools across the district hosted Drum & Dance events where Native American drummers and dancers from Moorhead High and Horizon Middle School—plus their own elementary classmates—visited and performed a set of traditional songs and dances. Each event was emceed by Matthew Johnson, the Indian Education Liaison for S.G. Reinertsen Elementary. For the final song of each show, the audience was invited to participate, leading to gyms full of Spuds dancing along to the beat of the drum. Many youngsters were even seen dancing out of the gym on the way back to their classrooms!





# The PTAC Corner

**PTAC MEETING: MONDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 6:00-7:00PM**

INFORM. INSPIRE. INVOLVE.

## WHAT PTAC REALLY IS ...SPOILER, IT'S NOT JUST FUNDRAISING

### Become a PTAC Member

Our PTAC continues to grow as more families realize this group is so much more than selling things or running events. We're a team of parents, caregivers, and staff who show up, create together, and bring joy into the building.

**It's casual.**

**It's collaborative.**

**It's impactful.**

**And we want YOU with us.**

You don't have to commit for life.  
You don't have to be crafty.  
You don't have to know anyone.

Just be a rad human who wants to help make school feel magical for our kids and staff.



### Join Us for Our Upcoming PTAC Meeting

📍 **Ellen Hopkins Media Center**  
🕒 **Monday, January 12th**  
**6:00pm - 7:00pm**

You won't want to miss it!

### Why We Need You

We're the coolest group you didn't know existed.

We laugh, build, create, plan, and pitch in—together.

We decide how funds are used.

We execute the ideas we dream up.

We bring the delight to Ellen Hopkins.

But we can't do it without more hands and hearts.

If you've ever wanted to be part of something meaningful (and fun, truly fun), this is your sign. Come join us. Your impact will be felt by an entire school.





## The PTAC Corner

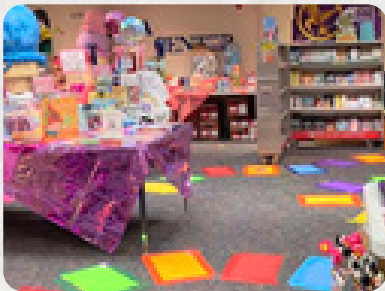
# A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT WE'VE DONE TOGETHER

HERE'S JUST A GLIMPSE OF THE DELIGHT THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO ELLEN HOPKINS THIS FALL



### Hands-On Helpers

Cut and prepped materials for all 1<sup>st</sup> graders to make spider crowns! We did it again for Kindergarten, creating their own crown kits!



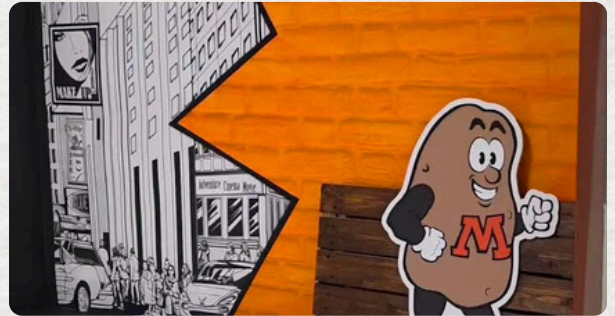
### Media Center Support

After our Candyland themed book fair, we funded \$1,400 in replacement library books. Plus, we've got a \$900 library surprise coming as soon as it's back in stock. Fun fact: Scholastic Books commented on our Facebook reel about the fair—yes, the real account!



### Community Fun

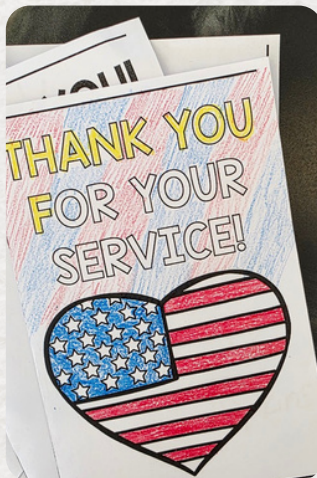
Partnered with Games To Go for "Bounce in the Valley"—a long weekend of pure chaos and fun. They donated \$2 per jumper directly to our PTAC.



### Schoolwide Enhancements

PTAC covered materials or funding for:

- Licensing for our Movie Nights
- Second Grade field trip support
- Materials for both hallway enclosures (Kinder Hall & Café Hall)
- Materials for the Veterans Day installation



### Honoring Our Community

We proudly designed and installed the Veterans Day Honor Display, celebrating and showcasing the loved ones of staff and students—with help from our media center friends.





ELLEN  
HOPKINS

SPIRIT  
WEEK

# Winter Wonderland

Monday, Dec 15

**WINTER WONDERLAND  
DAY: WEAR YOUR  
FAVORITE CHILLY  
COLORS: BLUE, GREEN,  
WHITE, OR SILVER!**



Tuesday, Dec 16

**FLANNEL AND FUN  
SOCKS DAY:  
WEAR YOUR FAVORITE  
FLANNEL AND FUN  
SOCKS**

Wednesday, Dec 17

**COZY CAP DAY: WEAR  
YOUR FAVORITE COZY  
WINTER HAT OR HEAD  
BAND!**



Thursday, Dec 18

**UGLY SWEATER DAY:  
WEAR YOUR "UGLIEST"  
SWEATER!**



Friday, Dec 19

**DEAR DAY: DROP  
EVERYTHING AND READ!  
WEAR YOUR COZY PJS,  
BRING A STUFFED  
ANIMAL TO SNUGGLE!**



**We hope you will join in on the  
fun!**



# SALEM CHURCH MOBILE FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION

*Food for anyone who doesn't have enough.*



**5:15-6:15 PM** at Salem Church, 1111 30th Ave S, Moorhead, MN. Please enter the parking lot on the north side of the building off of 30th St S.

**January 8th  
February 13th  
March 13th**

**2<sup>ND</sup> THURSDAY OF  
EVERY MONTH**

Limited quantities available. No ID or prior registration required.



**GREAT PLAINS  
FOOD BANK**



SALEM CHURCH



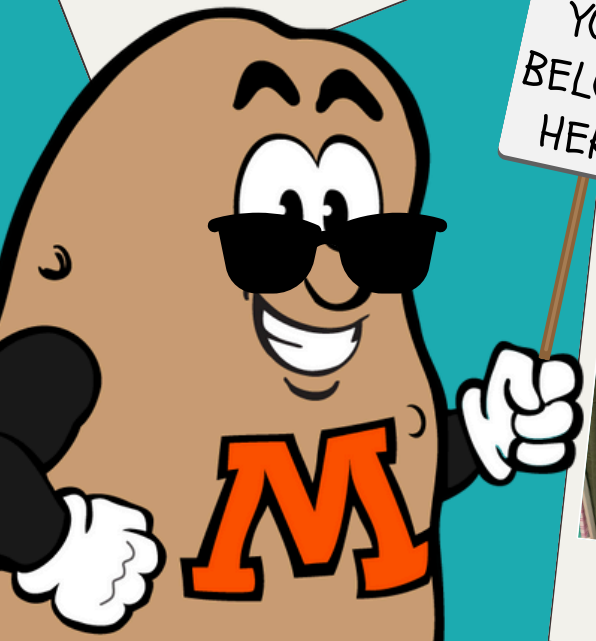
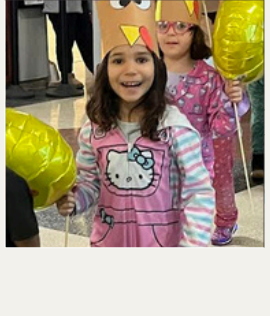
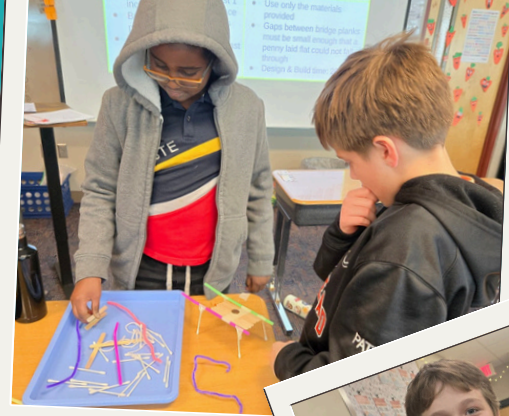
## Fargo/Moorhead/West Fargo Pop-Up Pantries



Monday			
Olivet Lutheran Church	First Monday Monthly: 2:30pm	1330 S. University Dr., Fargo	(701) 235-6603
Grace United Methodist	Second Monday Monthly: 5:00-6:00pm	1120 17th St S, Moorhead	(218) 233-1857
Tuesday			
Neighborhood Church	Second Tuesday Monthly: 4:00-5:30pm	730 27th St N., Fargo	(701) 552-1950
Wednesday			
GPFB Cultural - Fargo	Third Wednesday Monthly: 3:30-5:00pm	1900 28th Ave S, Moorhead	(701) 232-6219
GPFB Cultural - Bismarck	Fourth Wednesday Monthly: 4:00-5:30pm	407 South 25th St, Bismarck	(701) 232-6219
Thursday			
Salem Emergency Food Pantry	Second Thursday Monthly: 5:15-6:15pm	1111 30th Ave. S., Moorhead	(608) 772-6454
Pontoppidan Lutheran Church	Third Thursday Monthly: 4:00-5:30pm	309 4th St N, Fargo	(701) 232-0998
West Fargo Eats	Third Thursday May-October: 4:00-5:30pm	1402 16th St. E, Fargo	(701) 532-0394
First Congregational UCC	Fourth Thursday April-October: 4:00-6:00pm	406 8th St S, Moorhead	(218) 236-1756
Moorhead Public Schools	Fourth Thursday Monthly: 4:30-5:30pm	2800 27th Ave S Moorhead	(218) 284-6000

A fast, drive-through food distribution open to everyone. Volunteers load **free** fresh produce, dairy, meat, and more directly into your vehicle. Just drive up, fill out a short form, and you're on your way!

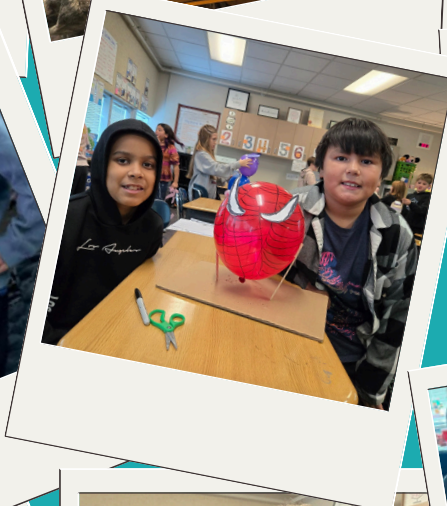
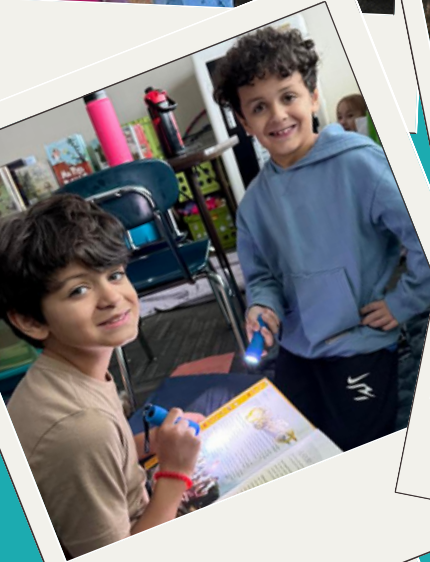
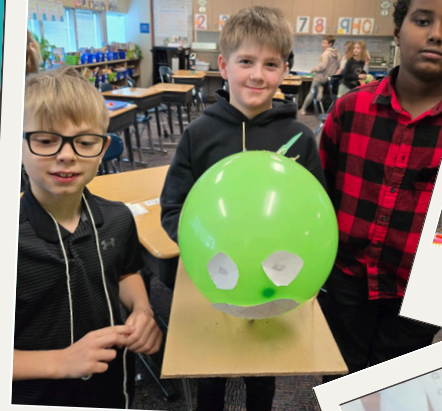




YOU BELONG HERE





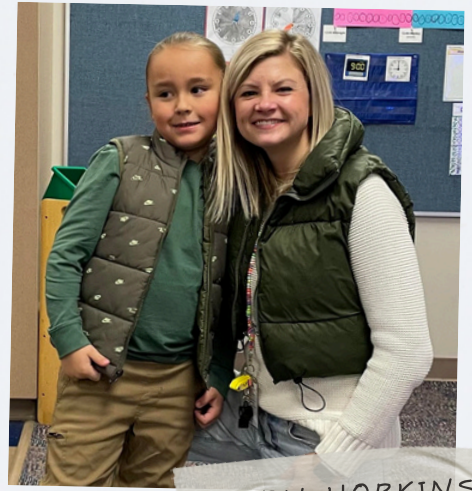




# SPUD PRIDE



3RD GRADE ROCKS!



ELLEN HOPKINS



:)



#SPUDS



<3



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

# FIRST GRADE



**Ellingson**  
1st Grade

**Hometown:** New Prague, MN

**3 Words To Describe Me:** Friendly, caring, fun

**Interesting Fact:** I have hiked the Inca Trail to Machu Pichu.

**Most Enjoy About Hopkins:** What I love most about my job is being at a school where every child feels seen, cared for, and like they belong. My first-grade team is also incredible.

**My Perfect Weekend:** A slow morning with my husband and two boys, going to the lake for some sun and boating, and going out for dinner.

**My Favorite Children's Book:** A Series of Unfortunate Events

**My Favorite School Lunch:** Orange Chicken and Rice

**My Favorite Color:** Navy blue

**My Hobby:** I recently started gardening.

**Movie I Could Watch Over and Over:** Mrs. Doubtfire

**A Goal For My Students:** My goal for them is knowing all of their letter names and sounds fluently.



**Hometown:** Fargo, ND

**3 Words To Describe Me:** Creative, Adventurous, Caring

**Interesting Fact:** I have been to 7 countries and hope to add many more!

**Most Enjoy About Hopkins:** The supportive and friendly staff!

**My Perfect Weekend:** Relaxing, reading a good book and take out food!

**My Favorite Children's Book:** Piggie and Elephant books

**My Favorite School Lunch:** Pizza!

**My Favorite Color:** Blue

**My Hobby:** Going on family bike rides.

**Movie I Could Watch Over and Over:** Grumpy Old Men

**A Goal For My Students:** To see their full potential and have confidence in themselves.



**Gildea**  
1st Grade



**Kastner**  
1st Grade

**Hometown:** Hatton, ND

**3 Words To Describe Me:** Warm, inviting, and enthusiastic

**Interesting Fact:** I've never eaten a pickle.

**Most Enjoy About Hopkins:** The staff and students are great!

**My Perfect Weekend:** Spending it at the lake with my family, no matter what season.

**My Favorite Children's Book:** Circles Around Us by Brad Montague

**My Favorite School Lunch:** Taco in a Bag

**My Favorite Color:** Olive Green

**My Hobby:** I love to read.

**Movie I Could Watch Over and Over:** The Little Mermaid

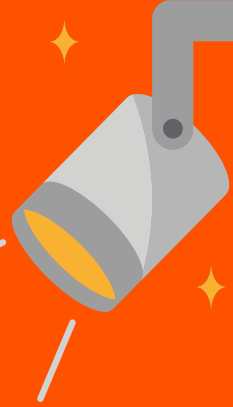
**A Goal For My Students:** To each feel successful in all they have learned.





# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

# FIRST GRADE



**Hometown:** Fargo, ND

**3 Words To Describe Me:** Empathetic, Flexible, Caring

**Interesting Fact:** In high school, I was on the FM Acro team and performed at NBA half time games.

**Most Enjoy About Hopkins:** My amazing first grade teams, and the wonderful students!

**My Perfect Weekend:** Sunny, warm and calm weekend with my family at the lake.

**My Favorite Children's Book:** Caps for Sale

**My Favorite School Lunch:** Cheesy French Bread or Orange Chicken

**My Favorite Color:** Blue

**My Hobby:** Reading and gardening

**Movie I Could Watch Over and Over:** The Breakfast Club

**A Goal For My Students:** Become strong communicators



**Schutz**  
1st Grade



**Stoa**  
1st Grade

**Hometown:** Moorhead, MN

**3 Words To Describe Me:** Caring, Dependable, and Friendly

**Interesting Fact:** I enjoy decorating sugar cookies and love 90s Country Music.

**Most Enjoy About Hopkins:** I enjoy all Hopkins staff, especially the First Grade Team, we all make Hopkins the best place to work.

**My Perfect Weekend:** Cheering on my children in their activities, while making time to hang out with my family and friends.

**My Favorite Children's Book:** The Junie B. Jones Series.

**My Favorite School Lunch:** Cheesy French Bread

**My Favorite Color:** Pink

**My Hobby:** Puzzles

**Movie I Could Watch Over and Over:** A League of Their Own

**A Goal For My Students:** To shine bright and achieve beyond your goals.

**Hometown:** Artesia, New Mexico

**3 Words To Describe Me:** Friendly, talkative, traveler

**Interesting Fact:** I have been sky diving!

**Most Enjoy About Hopkins:** The kids I work with!

**My Perfect Weekend:** Taking a trip, eating some good food, and relaxing.

**My Favorite Children's Book:** Miss Nelson is Missing

**My Favorite School Lunch:** Taco in a Bag

**My Favorite Color:** Yellow

**My Hobby:** Watching my daughter play college soccer.

**Movie I Could Watch Over and Over:** The Holiday

**A Goal For My Students:** To make good choices.



**Sharpe**  
1st Grade



# Thankful for our Special Services Coach

SARAH, THANK YOU!  
YOUR INCREDIBLY  
IMPACTFUL PRESENCE  
AT HOPKINS,  
COMBINED WITH YOUR  
INFECTIOUS "GO-GET-  
IT" ENERGY, HELPS US  
ALL SUCCEED.



SARAH  
BRENDEMUHL



**HOMETOWN:** MOORHEAD, MN

**THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE ME:** GRANDMA, WIFE, MOM

**ONE GOAL FOR STUDENTS:** TO FEEL SAFE AND LOVED IN OUR SCHOOLS.

**YEARS BEEN TEACHING:** ABOUT 23 YEARS

**THEME SONG:** I'M WALKING ON SUNSHINE

**FAVORITE SNACK:** CHIPS AND SALSA

**FAVORITE CLASS IN SCHOOL:** SCIENCE, ESPECIALLY BIOLOGY

**FAVORITE CHILDREN'S BOOK:** I LOVED READING THE HIGHLIGHTS MAGAZINE

**FAVORITE COLOR:** BLUE



## MOORHEAD APP

SCAN ME



## EDULOG BUS APP

TRACK YOUR CHILD'S BUS

SCAN ME



## INSTAGRAM

SCAN ME



## DISTRICT CALENDAR

SCAN ME



## POWERSCHOOL ANNUAL REGISTRATION

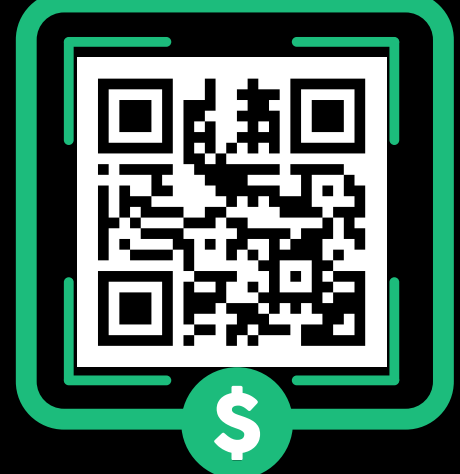
SCAN ME



## E-FUNDS

ADD LUNCH/SNACK MONEY

SCAN ME



## WELCOME LETTER TO PARENTS

SCAN ME



## BACK TO SCHOOL SLIDESHOW

SCAN ME



ELLEN HOPKINS ELEMENTARY  
2020 11<sup>TH</sup> ST S  
MOORHEAD, MN 56560

SCHOOL HOURS  
7:45 AM - 2:30 PM

OFFICE : 218-284-4300

FAX: 218-284-4333

HOPK@MOORHEADSCHOOLS.ORG





# 2025-26 District Calendar

August 12 .....Primary Election Day; no activities after 6 PM  
 August 25-28 .....PD/Workshop  
 September 1 .....Labor Day  
 September 2 .....E-12 Classes Begin  
 September 19 .....Early Out  
 September 26 .....No School; PD  
 October 7 .....K-8 Conferences  
 October 9 .....K-8 Conferences  
 October 14 .....K-8 Conferences  
 October 15 .....Early Out  
 October 16-17 .....No School  
 October 28 .....9-12 Conferences  
 October 30 .....9-12 Conferences  
 October 31 .....End of 1st Quarter  
 November 4 .....Election Day; no activities after 6 PM  
 November 10 .....No School; PD  
 November 26 .....Early Out  
 November 27-28 .....No School  
 December 22 .....Winter Break Begins  
 December 31 .....New Year's Eve  
 January 5 .....E-12 Classes Resume  
 January 16 .....End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester  
 January 19 .....No School; PD  
 January 27 .....7-12 Conferences  
 February 16 .....No School  
 March 6 .....No School; PD  
 March 9 .....K-6, 9-12 Conferences  
 March 10 .....Township Election Day; no activities after 6 PM  
 March 12 .....K-12 Conferences  
 March 17 .....K-8 Conferences  
 March 18 .....Early Out  
 March 18 .....End of 3rd Quarter  
 March 19-20 .....No School  
 March 20 .....No School  
 April 3 .....No School  
 May 25 .....Memorial Day  
 May 29 .....Last Student Day; Early Out; End of 4th Quarter  
 May 29 .....Graduation, 7PM  
 June 1-3 .....Possible Make-up Days

JULY 2025							AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					4	5						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
30													

JANUARY 2026							FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3							
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH							APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

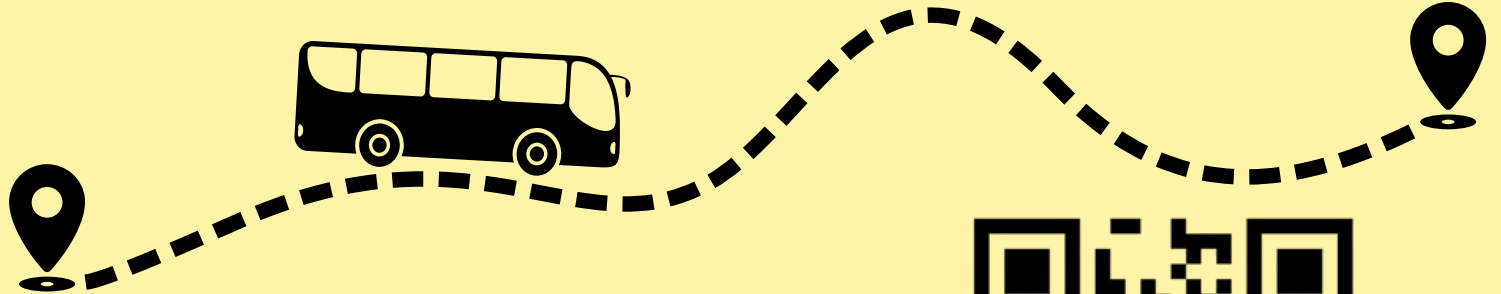
MAY							JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2							
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
31													

KEY		No School		End of Quarter / Semester
		No School, all schools and district offices closed		Family-Teacher Conference (varies by school)
		No School for Students / Professional Development		Early Out
		E-12 Classes Begin		
		Possible in-person make-up days:		

**REVISED**  
 4.25.25



# TRACK YOUR STUDENT'S BUS



**DOWNLOAD THE  
EDULOG PARENT  
PORTAL!**



 **EDULOG**



**MAPS Edulog Information**



**Edulog F&Q**

