GRINNELL – NEWBURG
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 2024-2025

FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT LISA BEAMES

Dear Grinnell-Newburg Families:

Shortly before July 1st, I received an email from a district administrator which asked me, "Hey, do you know the theme for next year yet." This was the first I had heard of it and thought..."Oh, my gosh....that's a really deep decision." I tried to graciously say well no I don't and gracefully say, "I need more time to think on that one."

Time has passed and actually in some way..ran out. And as with other things in life, we gotta go and thus here is what I landed on,

Leading for Their Tomorrow

Hello, my name is Lisa Beames and I am the Interim Superintendent for the Grinnell-Newburg Community Schools for the 24-25. I am very excited to be here and look forward to our upcoming school year.

As a 1st year teacher long ago, I had a student named Katie. She was bright, straightforward and often just said whatever was on her mind. From time to time, she also liked to be the center of attention. One day while I was working with several other students, Katie blurted out, "Why do we have to learn this. I just want to grow-up, get married and stay here to raise my children. I don't need this."

My response to Katie...and her classmates...was this. "If that is what you choose to do, are happy and a productive member of your community, then that is wonderful. The challenge we have is that my job is not to prepare you for what you think you want today. My job is to work to prepare you for the choices you may want should you ever change your mind.

I often think about Katie and the impact she afforded me in clarifying the "why" to my journey of becoming a teacher. Teaching was not actually my 1st career choice when I graduated from high school. Please don't get me wrong...it has been an amazing life and I feel proud and blessed for being an educator. When I walked across the stage at my high school graduation, I was going to become an architect. I loved drafting and design. Getting everything just so and where it should be to make the building work well brought me a great sense of satisfaction.

Yet, nobody told me that I should have gotten into the art classroom. Without absolutely any background in sketching/drawing, the gap of experience and skill was too great. The goal of becoming an architect was unreachable and thus through the guidance of an English professor, I found my way into education.

I believe in many ways, I have been so much more fortunate to have found my way into education and ultimately to have been able to help build school systems that better prepare students for the choices they don't often yet know lie before them.

Building and redesigning school systems is not unlike building homes or commercial facilities in that one we have to think holistically and in detail and we have to lead in thought and action to ensure that it all works together efficiently for the purposes proposed.

To meet the needs of our current and future students requires leadership from every person that touches the lives of our children and youth. No one escapes the privilege or the responsibility. With each word and action a child shapes their being and belief in themselves and others. What we reflect as priorities, treasures and dislikes becomes a piece of the fabric they carry with them into their futures.

Education is a critical crux of any community. Generation after generation we must continuously retool our work for them....we must lead for their tomorrow.

Recently, I discussed big focuses for my work throughout this year. They include working to:

- Build a greater system coherence
- Increase ongoing financial stability of the district
- Ensure equitable compensation for staff within the resources that we have
- Enhance communication structures to promote greater transparency and,
- Increase the climate and culture of the district.

To accomplish these both I, yet most importantly the district needs the energy, perspective and commitment of many. I invite everyone to join us in our journey of charting our path forward throughout the 24-25 school year. Please feel free to reach out or to stop in and visit me. I would look forward to meeting and visiting with you.

I thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received and look forward to the 24-25 school year.

Lisa Beames

ONLINE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Online registration for the 2024-25 school year is now open. Parents should have received an email with instructions for registering online. Information is also available at www.grinnell-k12.org.

Payment for registration fees can be made **after July 1, 2024** through the parent portal, or in the front office of your student's building.

The District will be holding a Registration Night on Monday, August 5th from 4:00-7:00 p.m in the High School cafeteria. Assistance will be available to help families complete all forms including FRAM, Bus transportation, English Language Assistance, Activities, Parent Portal etc.

Please bring the following paperwork with you for registration:

- Immunization Records
- Birth Certificates
- Physical Forms
- Kindergarten - physical, dental, and vision forms are required

Continue to contact our Registrar's office outside of registration night with questions and/or assistance needs. We are looking forward to a great year!

2024-25 REGISTRATION FEES

Instructional Materials Fee

K-4th Grade (required fee)	$50
5th-8th Grade (required fee)	$70
9th-12th Grade (required fee)	$85

The Instructional Materials Fee may be waived for students approved for free meals. The fee will be reduced up to 50% for students approved for reduced price meals. A state income tax credit can be taken for this fee.

Fees cannot be waived unless Waiver Form is submitted along with the Application for Free or Reduced Meals. The Fee Waiver must be submitted by October 4, 2024.

Music Department Fees

Percussion Rental	$40
Other Instrument Rental	$75
HS Band Uniform Cleaning (required fee)	$40
HS Choir Robe Cleaning (required fee)	$20
HS Colorguard	$20

Yearbook Fees

High School Yearbook	$65
High School Yearbook (late order)	$80
Middle School Yearbook	$17
Elementary Yearbook	$17

Activity Pass

K-6th Grade	$30
7th-8th Grade	$50
9th-12th Grade	$70

Breakfast & Lunch Fees

K-4th Grade Breakfast	$1.70
5-12th Grade Breakfast	$1.85
Reduced Price Breakfast	$0.30
K-4th Grade Lunch	$3.10
5-12th Grade Lunch	$3.25
Reduced Price Lunch	$0.40
Adult Breakfast	$2.10
Adult Lunch	$4.85

Extra Milk

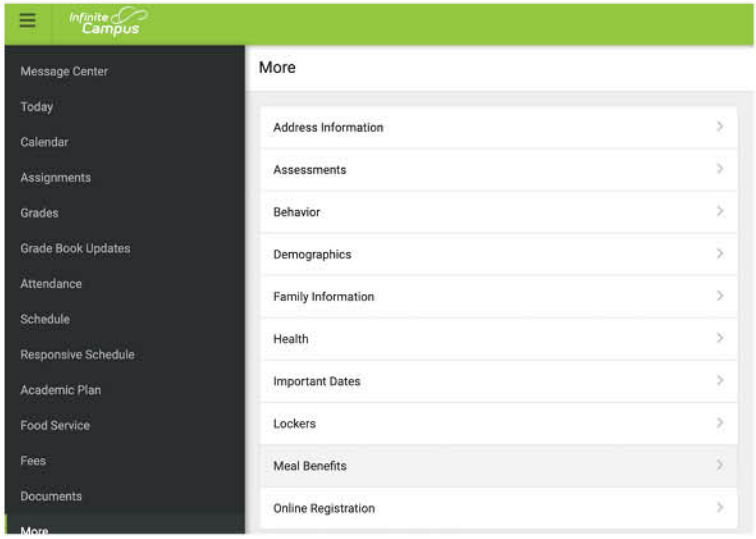
Single carton of milk	$0.45

All fees are subject to change. These are the fees at the time of printing and may change.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Free or reduced price breakfast and lunch meals are available to students of families meeting the income or other qualifications listed on the application forms. The information on these forms is kept strictly confidential. Because of the way the school lunch computer is set up, other students will not be aware that your child qualifies for free or reduced price meals.

Free and reduced price meal applications are available through the parent portal by clicking on the "More" and "Meal Benefits" tab on the left hand menu bar, and then clicking on the link for the Meal Benefits Application. Computers will be available to fill out your online application at the building locations, as well as during the Registration Night on August 5, 2024. Paper applications can also be obtained in the office at each school building.



Middle school and high school students also have the option of purchasing a la carte food items at an additional charge to their account. The a la carte items are food items that are normally separate from the school breakfast and lunch menu. If you do not want your student to purchase these extra-charge a la carte items, please discuss this with your student and contact Kim Sieck at kim.sieck@grinnell-k12.org to limit this option. Families of students on the free or reduced price meal plans will be charged and must pay for a la carte food items purchased.

The State of Iowa processes applications according to their fiscal year, which begins July 1 of every year. Applications should not be submitted before July 1 of 2024. Please look at the nutrition page of the district website for more information.

Applying for Free and Reduced Meals and School Fees can now be done online! Parents can access the application through the parent portal. As always, applications cannot be filled out until after July 1, 2024.Registration fee waivers must be completed by October 4th.

TIGER PACKS

The Tiger Packs program will be providing a package of shelf-stable food each Friday to children Kindergarten - 8th grade in the GrinnellNewburg School District. To sign your child up for Tiger Packs please contact your building administrative assistant.

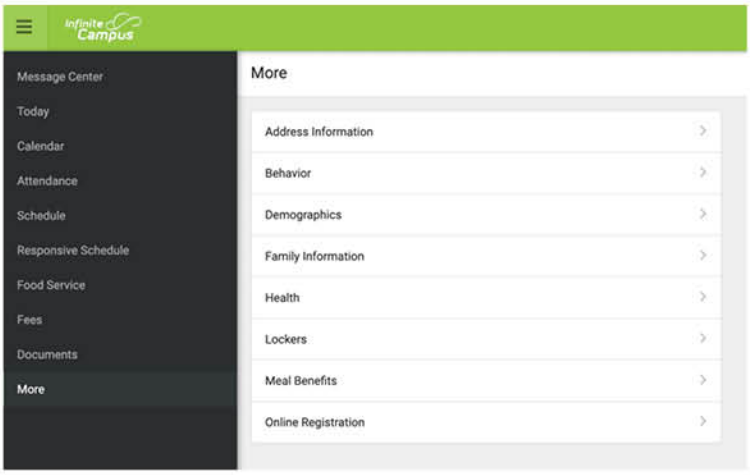
START AND DISMISSAL TIMES

Please note the start and end times for 2024-2025:

- Fairview, Bailey Park, and Davis Elementary Schools will start at 7:55 am and dismiss at 3:00.
- Middle School will start at 8:00 and dismiss at 3:05.
- High School will start at 8:15 and dismiss at 3:15.

SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS, EARLY DISMISSALS & DELAYS

Decisions concerning early dismissals, delays and school closings will be announced as early as possible using the Messenger System. Please ensure your contact information is up-to-date in Infinite Campus. You can update your contact information through your parent portal, under more, then address information, or by contacting your building administrative assistant.



Delays, cancellations, and early dismissals will also be reported on Kix 101.1, WHO, WOI, and KCCI.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

We want you to have a great start to your school year! Attending your student's open house is an easy way to help calm the "first day of school jitters." Come and meet your student's teacher and classmates before school starts! Teachers will be in their classrooms to greet their new students. During this time students are encouraged to bring their school supplies to their classroom.

Bailey Park: Wednesday, August 21st, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Fairview: Wednesday, August 21st, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Davis: Wednesday, August 21st, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Grinnell Middle School will be hosting an open house for parents and students. Returning 6th-8th Grade Open house is come and go to set up lockers and get schedule. Please see below for times.

Wednesday, August 21st

New 6th-8th grade students: 3:00-3:45
Orientation at 3:00 in the mini-theater & open house to follow

5th Grade students — 4:00 - 4:45
Orientation at 4:00 in the gym & open house to follow

5:00-5:30 — Returning 6th Grade Open House

5:45-6:15 — Returning 7th Grade Open House

6:30-7:00 — Returning 8th Grade Open House

******All iPads will be handed out on the first day of classes******

******Fall sports parent meeting will be held on a separate night.******

FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

Grinnell High School will be hosting an orientation for all Freshman on August 21st, from 5:30-7:00 PM. All incoming 9th Grade students and their parents are invited. High School Faculty and Student Ambassadors will be present to meet with students and parents, and answer questions about the classes and activities at GHS. Incoming 9th graders and their guardians will meet with Principal Edsen in the auditorium at 5:30 PM, and will go through their schedule and meet instructors.

HIGH SCHOOL NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

New Student Orientation can be scheduled by appointment by contacting high school counselors
Cass Stubbs (cass.stubbs@grinnell-k12.org),
Chanae Fitzgerald (chanae.fitzgerald@grinnell-k12.org),

HEALTH SCREENING INFORMATION

The following are required screenings and immunizations mandated by Iowa law. If your child will be entering one of the following grades, you must provide proof of the screening and/or immunization prior to the start of school:

Kindergarten:....Dental screening, vision screening, physical, all required immunizations for kindergarten

3rd Grade:.....Vision screening

7th Grade:.....Tdap and meningococcal vaccinations

9th Grade:.....Dental screening

12th Grade:.....Meningococcal vaccination

Please note:

1. Parents may submit a religious (signed by parent and notary) or medical (signed by physician) exemption for required immunizations.
2. Students who do not receive a required meningococcal immunization (7th and 12th grades) or have an exemption, will not be able to start school.
3. Community resources are available for assistance with dental & vision screenings. Please contact one of the Grinnell-Newburg CSD School Nurses for further information:

   Kim Weber, RN, BSN:
   kim.weber@grinnell-k12.org or 641-236-2720

   Katelin Ferguson
   katelin.ferguson@grinnell-k12.org or 641-236-2751

BEAT THE END OF SUMMER RUSH

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR FAMILY DOCTOR, OR CALL GRINNELL PUBLIC HEALTH AT 641-236-2385 TODAY!

CONTACT INFO

Grinnell-Newburg High School
1333 Sunset Street
Grinnell, IA 50112
641-236-2720
641-236-2692 (fax)
Trent Edsen, Principal
trent.edsen@grinnell-k12.org
Brandon Sharp, SAM and Coordinator of Special Programs
brandon.sharp@grinnell-k12.org
Chris Coffman, Activities Director
chris.coffman@grinnell-k12.org

Grinnell-Newburg Middle School
132 East Street South
Grinnell, IA 50112
641-236-2750
641-236-2732 (fax)
Nicole James, Principal
nicole.james@grinnell-k12.org
Rob Gibson, Assistant Principal
rob.gibson@grinnell-k12.org

Bailey Park Elementary
210 Eighth Ave
Grinnell, IA 50112
641-236-2770
641-236-2682 (fax)
Josh Smith, Principal
josh.smith@grinnell-k12.org
Staci Bergman, Assistant Principal
staci.bergman@grinnell-k12.org

Fairview Elementary
1310 Hobart Street
Grinnell, IA 50112
641-236-2780
641-236-2674 (fax)
Josh Smith, Principal
josh.smith@grinnell-k12.org
Staci Bergman, Assistant Principal
staci.bergman@grinnell-k12.org

Davis Elementary
818 Hamilton Ave
Grinnell, IA 50112
641-236-2790
641-236-2785 (fax)
Brian Conway, Principal
brian.conway@grinnell-k12.org

Grinnell-Newburg School District Office
925 Broad Street
Grinnell, IA 50112
641-236-2700
641-236-2699 (fax)
Lisa Beames
lisa.beames@grinnell-k12.org
Lisa Briggs, CFO, Business Manager
lisa.briggs@grinnell-k12.org

Food Service Department
641-236-2668
Kim Sieck, Food Service Director
kim.sieck@grinnell-k12.org

Facilities and Maintenance
641-236-2700
Shawn Edelen, Maintenance Director
shawn.edelen@grinnell-k12.org
Brian Astelle, Mechanic
brian.astelle@grinnell-k12.org

Transportation
641-236-2715
Chris Astelle, Transportation Director
chris.astelle@grinnell-k12.org
J.D. Barnes, Assistant Director
jd.barnes@grinnell-k12.org

Title I Contact
641-236-2790
Brian Conway
brian.conway@grinnell-k12.org

Technology
641-236-2683
Mindy Kostow, Director
mindy.kostow@grinnell-k12.org
Bill Gruman, Instructional
bill.gruman@grinnell-k12.org

SUPPLIES DO NOT NEED TO BE LABELED UNLESS SPECIFIED

PRE-K

1	backpack -standard size to fit a folder
1	extra set of clothes in case of spills or accidents (socks, underwear, shirt & pants)
1	sunscreen stick
1	box kleenex

KINDERGARTEN

2	boxes crayons (16-24 count)
1	box Crayola© colored pencils (12 count)- labeled
2	box broad tip washable markers (8-10 count)- labeled
1	plastic pencil box (8 1/2 x 5 1/2)- labeled
2	boxes of 4 pack Expo fine tip dry erase markers
6	#2 plain pencils, sharpened
2	BIG erasers
1	backpack- labeled
1	sturdy two-pocket folder- labeled
12	small glue sticks
1	set of headphones **(NO EARBUDS OR BLUETOOTH)** in a large Ziploc bag- labeled
2	kleenex

Optional - package sheet protectors, quart/Ziploc, 8 1/2 x 11 laminated pouches, 1 bottle of All Glue.

1ST GRADE

2	sturdy two-pocket folders (not Plastic)
1	box broad tip washable markers (8-10 count)
1	plastic pencil box (8 1/2 x 5 1/2)
2	boxes Crayola© crayons (24 count)- labeled
1	backpack
10	#2 plain pencils, sharpened- labeled
6	glue sticks - labeled
1	box Expo dry erase markers
1	set of headphones **(NO EARBUDS OR BLUETOOTH)** in a Ziploc bag- labeled
1	box of tissues
2	BIG Erasers
1	pair of scissors

Optional - ziploc bags (all sizes), clorox wipes, and sheet protectors

2ND GRADE

2	wide line spiral notebooks
1	pencil box (8 1/2 x 5 1/2)
1	box crayons
1	box colored pencils
1	box Fine tip, Expo dry erase markers
1	backpack or bag
12	#2 pencils, sharpened
2	large erasers
2	large glue sticks
1	set of headphones **(NO EARBUDS OR BLUETOOTH)** in a Ziploc bag - labeled
1	box of tissues
2	sturdy two-pocket folders
1	pair of scissors ***(Bailey Park ONLY)***

Optional Donations:
Colored pencils/colored markers, Clorox© bleach wipes

3RD GRADE - ALL ROOMS

1	small sharp student scissors
1	set of headphones or earbuds
3	wide line spiral notebooks
1	highlighter
5	plastic folders with pockets: 1 blue, 1 green, 1 red, 2 misc colors
1	pkg. of 4 count dry erase markers
1	box of crayons, 24 count OR 1 pkg of colored pencils
1	clipboard
48	pencils
1	large pink eraser
1	pkgs of 4 small glue sticks
1	pencil case or bag
2	boxes of Kleenex

Optional Donations:
Hand sanitizer, Clorox© bleach wipes, ziplock bags (gallon or quart)

4TH GRADE - ALL ROOMS

NO TRAPPER KEEPERS

24	#2 pencils, sharpened
1	large eraser
1	hand held pencil sharpener (w/shavings catcher)
1	large glue stick
1	box of colored pencils, 24 count
1	package dry erase markers (chisel point)
4	highlighters (different colors)
1	pair of scissors
1	cloth sturdy pencil bag or box
1	clean old sock for white board eraser
2	sturdy two pocket folders
1	70-count wide rule spiral notebook
1	5-subject notebook
1	Kleenex
1	7+ pocket heavy duty expandable folder
1	Headphones

Optional Donations:
Hand sanitizer, Avery© address labels, Clorox© bleach wipes, Dry erase markers, 3x3 Super Sticky Post-It© Notes, Loose Leaf Paper, Extra of above supplies are appreciated

SUPPLIES

SUPPLIES DO NOT NEED TO BE LABELED UNLESS SPECIFIED

FIFTH GRADE

2	packages thick dry erase markers (for Tiger Time)
6	pocket folders
1	pencil bag
2	packages pencils & handheld sharpener
2	glue sticks
1	package colored pencils
1	package loose leaf lined paper (ELA)
1	1" binder with clear front (ELA)
1	composition notebook/journal (Math)
1	pair headphones/earbuds
1	backpack or bag
3	boxes of Kleenex
1	package clorox wipes
*	Trapper Keeper (optional but recommended)
1	18-24 oz. **clear**, reusable water bottle, labeled
1	composition notebooks (Writing)

SIXTH GRADE

1	1" binder with clear front (ELA)
1	package of 5-tab dividers (ELA)
2	glue sticks (science)
1	composition notebook (science)
1	pencil bag
2	packages (minimum) pencils
2	colored pens (minimum)
1	box colored pencils
1	basic calculator
1	pair of scissors (optional)
1	pair headphones/earbuds
4	Expo black markers (math)
3	1-pocket folders (Spanish and ?)
3	boxes of Kleenex
1	package clorox wipes
1	18-24 oz. **clear**, reusable water bottle, labeled
1	composition notebooks (Writing)

SEVENTH GRADE

8	Expo black markers (Tiger Time)
3	boxes of Kleenex (Tiger Time)
1	package of post-it notes (Tiger Time)
	Calculator
1	package loose leaf lined paper
2	1-subject spiral notebooks
1	3-subject notebook (if taking 7/8 Math)
1	5-subject notebook (If taking Integrated 1)
25	Pencils
1	package colored pens
1	package colored highlighters
2	2-pocket folder
1	pair headphones/earbuds
1	box colored pencils
1	box of markers (optional)
1	backpack
1	Trapper Keeper (optional but recommended)
1	reusable water bottle, labeled
	PE clothes / deodorant
1	composition notebooks (Writing)

EIGHTH GRADE

1	composition books (Reading)
1	5-subject notebook (Math)
50+	pencils
5-10	pens
1	box colored pencils or markers
1	Scientific calculator
1	pair headphones/earbuds
1	graph paper notebook
1	package Post It notes
1	pencil bag (optional)
4	boxes of Kleenex
1	backpack
	PE clothes / deodorant
1	pocket folder
1	composition notebooks (Writing)

HIGH SCHOOL

High school students should bring paper, pencils, and pens to their first day of classes. Individual teachers will list specific materials needed during their first classroom meeting. Students should keep general school supplies (such as folders, etc.) in their backpacks. Students should not rely on the office to supply such items.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Lifetouch Photography will be taking school pictures at the following locations and dates:

Fairview Elementary - Oct 1, 2024 *(retakes: Nov 14)*

Bailey Park Elementary - Sept 25, 2024 *(retakes: Nov 6)*

Davis Elementary - Sept 18, 2024 *(retakes: Oct 30)*

Grinnell Middle School - Sept 6, 2024 *(retakes: Oct 17)*

Grinnell High School - August 30, 2024 *(retakes: Oct 10)*

Prior to the picture date, each school will distribute order form and payment envelopes. Payment for pictures is required at the time the photo is taken. The purchase of school pictures is optional; however, all students will be photographed for school records. Students are encouraged to wear bright and colorful clothing for their photo.

PROCEDURES FOR FALL OF 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR:

In the interest of students' safety, parents/guardians/authorized individuals are requested to report directly to the office when picking up their child rather than the child just coming out of the building to a vehicle. Likewise, when a student arrives late or returns to the building following an absence during the school day, the adult should stop in the office and sign the child in.

Other than parents or legal guardians, only persons with prior authorization will be allowed to pick up a child from the school. Anyone who is unfamiliar to teaching staff, including authorized individuals, will be asked to present photo identification before a child is released to them.

PARKING AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

Students will need to park in the lot on the east side (front) of the building or in the north activities lot. There will be no student parking in the west parking lot during school hours.

OPEN CAMPUS

Senior open campus information is available at the high school main office. Parent permission is required for open campus privileges. A parent may grant this permission by signing an open campus permission form and returning it to the high school office. Seniors must return the completed form to the high school office before classes begin.

REMINDER: Students may leave for open campus only during a period in which they are not scheduled for a class. The only students who may leave campus for lunch are those who have 4th period open campus.

TALENTED AND GIFTED

Talented and Gifted (TAG) services are provided for identified students in grades K-12. Please contact your student's classroom teacher or building principal for more information regarding TAG support.

SCHOOL BUS REGULATIONS

The safety of our students is of the utmost importance for us. School bus passengers are responsible for obeying all school bus regulations. If regulations are not followed, disciplinary actions will be taken.

The Grinnell-Newburg Community School District Board of Directors has authorized the use of video cameras on school district buses. The video cameras will be used to monitor student behavior to maintain order on the school buses and to promote and maintain a safe environment. Students and parents are hereby notified that the content of the videotapes may be used in a student disciplinary proceeding. The content of the videotapes are confidential student records and will be retained with other student records. Videotapes will only be retained if necessary for use in a student disciplinary proceeding or other matter, as determined necessary by the administration.

TRANSPORTATION LINKS

Every parent/guardian will need to complete a request for transportation. This year, there is a transportation link specific to each building. Please visit www.grinnell-k12.org and click the "Parents and Students"section. Under that you will find a link to our transportation requests. Please contact Chris Astelle with any questions at (641) 236-2715 or at chris.astelle@grinnell-k12.org.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES INFORMATION

IMPORTANT DATES

August 7th
High School Fall Sports Practices Begin

August 23rd
Middle School Fall Sports Practices Begin
physicals need to be turned in prior to the first day of practice

BOUND

We are excited to announce that starting Fall of 2024 we will be a full partner with BOUND, a full-scale athletic, activities, and facilities management system. This was a conference decision to use BOUND across all WaMaC schools. This partnership will create a seamless and engaging experience for all Tiger stakeholders - all of our schedules, ticketing, scores and standings, and fundraising opportunities will be in one location! Please visit www.gobound.com/ia/schools/grinnell to create your account and add your student(s).

ATHLETIC FORMS

All students participating in sports in the 24-25 school year must submit a current physical form, concussion form, good conduct form, and participation form. Forms must be entered in BOUND prior to the first practice. **DO NOT give paperwork to coaches.** All forms are available on the district website (grinnell-k12.org, Parents and Students, Forms and Documents for Parents) or the building front office.

ACTIVITY PASSES

All activity passes must be purchased online:
https://www.gobound.com/ia/schools/grinnell/tickets

Family Pass- $260
Adult Pass- $100
Senior Pass- $70
Student Pass HS- $70
Student Pass MS- $50
Student Pass Elm- $30

Students who show their current year activity card will not be charged admission to regular season home events & may use their card to attend 1 high school (non-musical) performance.

The revenue form the purchase of these cards supports fine arts, athletics, Student Council, & other student organizations.

Questions? Contact Lindsey Peck: lindsey.peck@grinnell-k12.org

FAMILY WEEK

The Iowa High School Athletic Association and Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union have and upcoming 'Family Week' appearing in Iowa's Unified Activity Federation calendar. This week will prohibit any coach and/or teacher contact with student-athletes, and prohibits any IHSAA or IGHSAU event from occuring. This non-contact period will run from Sunday July 28, 2024 through Sunday August 4, 2024.

GRINNELL TIGER BOOSTER CLUB

Each year the Booster Club provides thousands of dollars in financial assistance for uniforms, equipment, and other essentials for the athletic department. Much of the club's operating budget comes from the membership drive and concession stand revenue at home athletic events. We ask parents of athletes and other community members to consider donating to this worthwhile cause through membership and volunteering opportunities.

For current information on the Tiger Booster Club, please visit the G-N district website or reach out to grinnelltigerboosters@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

For a successful Booster Club, many volunteers are needed to staff the concession stands throughout the year. Shifts are approximately two hours and are very flexible.

Volunteers are also needed to monitor the reserved parking lot entrance before Tiger home football. Parents of athletes are especially encouraged to volunteer for 2-3 events during every sport season in which each child participates.

We are now utilizing a free online system called Sign Up Genius. This system allows us to contact each parent through an email that includes a link to the event in the system. In order to make this work we need parents' email addresses. Please take a moment to send an email address to ghsathleticboostersconcession@gmail.com. Then you will be able to access the system and sign up for events that work with your calendar. Thank you to everyone who previously volunteered for the Booster Club. We look forward to meeting new volunteers. You make our volunteer job much easier!

GRINNELL CONNECTED PTO

The Grinnell Elementary PTO is the Parent/Teacher organization serving all three elementary schools.The PTO aims to enhance our education environment by supporting teachers and students. A few of the many programs and activities the organization provides include field trips, free family events, free books for all students, and teacher support. PTO requires a lot of volunteering to make an impact and has opportunities that fit all time frames and skill sets. Watch for more information as the new school year begins for ways you can help! PTO meetings will be held the first Sunday each month at 6:00pm at the Periodic Table. Your weekly news emails from your school will share details on location. Meetings give further information about upcoming activities of the PTO and updates from teachers about current happenings in the school. Join us to share thoughts, ideas and help! Contact grinnellelementarypto@gmail.com with any questions and like our Grinnell Elementary PTO facebook page to stay updated.

Thank you for your support!

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open Enrollment is the process by which a parent or guardian residing in an Iowa district may enroll their child(ren) into another Iowa school district under the terms and conditions of Iowa Code 282.18 and Iowa Administrative Code 281-17. Visit Dept of Ed to learn more: https://educate.iowa.gov/pk-12/educational-choice/open-enrollment

A student who transfers school districts under open enrollment in grades 10 through 12 shall not be eligible to participate in interscholastic contests and competitions during the first 90 school days of transfer. For questions on eligibility, please contact the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union at (515) 288-9741 or the Iowa High School Athletic Association at (515) 432-2011.

Parents/guardians of open enrollment students may be eligible for transportation assistance. This may be in the form of actual transportation or in the form of a cash stipend.

Forms are available on the district website at www.grinnell-k12.org or in the district office. For more information call 641-236-2700.

HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Chapter 33 of Iowa Administrative Code defines "Homeless child or youth" as a child or youth from the age of 3 years through 21 years who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes the following:

1. A child or youth who is sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; is living in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; is living in an emergency or transitional shelter; is abandoned in a hospital; or is awaiting foster care placement;

2. A child or youth who has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;

3. A child or youth who is living in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting; or

4. A migratory child or youth who qualifies as homeless because the child or youth is living in circumstances described in paragraphs "1" through "3" above.

If you, or someone you know, meets the above definition, contact the district office, 641-236-2700, to receive information on the next steps to make arrangements to enroll the student in school.

PARENTAL RIGHTS

Parents/Guardians in the Grinnell-Newburg Community School District have the right to learn about the following regarding their child's teachers' qualifications: State licensure status, special endorsements for grade level/subject area taught, and baccalaureate/graduate certification/degree. Parents/Guardians may request this information from the Office of the Superintendent by calling (641) 236-2700 or sending a letter of request to the Office of the Superintendent, 925 Broad St, Grinnell, IA 50112.

APPLE DEVICE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Please visit grinnell-k12.org then click the Parents & Students tab and Technology Resources in the drop down menu to find the Apple Device Policies for your review.

A Few New Faces Around the District

Natalie Jack
Fairview Elementary
1st Grade Teacher

My name is Natalie Jack. I grew up in Northern Iowa, but my family and I have been living in Grinnell since 2012. I have spent the last 12 years teaching 4th grade in Newton and am excited to begin a new adventure in 1st grade! My favorite part of being a teacher is seeing students master new skills and seeing their faces when they finally 'get it'! I'm looking forward to getting to know new students, families, and staff this year and am excited to join the Grinnell Tiger family!

Outside of work, I love spending time with my husband, Derek and two kids, Thomas and Violet. We love to go to rodeos and renaissance festivals and it is our goal to visit as many National Parks as possible!

Alexis Shaffer
Middle School
5th Grade ELA Teacher

My name is Alexis Shaffer and I will be the 5th Grade Reading and Language Arts teacher at Grinnell-Newburg Middle School. I am originally from Grinnell. I am very excited to come back to the community and work in the school district. I am excited to build relationships with my students and the staff as well! My family consists of my mom (Becky), my dad (Dave), and my brother (Braxton). In my free time, I love spending time with my family and friends, playing card games, and cheering on the Iowa Hawkeyes! I am looking forward to this school year and becoming a part of this school district!

Derek Wrage
Middle School
Special Education

I graduated from Cornell College in 2018. I've spent the last five school years teaching special education. Outside of school I coach baseball at Grinnell College and in Newton, and enjoy working out and golf while the weather is nice. I'm most excited to join the Grinnell community this year and work with students to develop skills for them to be successful!

Lin Nikkel
Middle School
5th/6th Band Director

Hello, my name is Lin Nikkel. I just graduated from the University of Northern Iowa and am originally from Pella, Iowa. In addition to making music in my free time, I also enjoy reading, cooking, and spending time with my family. I'm incredibly excited to join the Grinnell-Newburg Middle School staff and look forward to getting to know the Grinnell community through music.

Staci Bergman
Fairview and Bailey Park Elementary
Assistant Elementary Principal

Hello Grinnell-Newburg Family!
My name is Staci Bergman, and I am pleased to serve as your new K-2 Assistant Principal!

As a 2011 graduate of Buena Vista University, I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education, a reading endorsement, and a social studies endorsement. I completed a Master's Degree in Instructional Technology from Ashford University in 2014, so I have a current Master Educator Iowa Teaching License. Another Master's Degree in Educational Leadership with principal licensure from the University of Iowa will be completed in December of 2024. I currently hold a Class B License that covers the following endorsements: PK-12 Principal, PK-12 Special Education Supervisor, and Evaluator.

For the last thirteen years, I have been working at Evans Middle School in Ottumwa, IA. Three of those years were in general education reading, four years were in intervention reading, and I made the switch to social studies 6 years ago. During my time in Ottumwa, I have been a long-time mentor, department head, and leader within my building and district. I have also coached middle school sports and varsity swimming. In addition to working in the public school system, I have been an adjunct instructor at the college level for over 10 years.

When I am not at school, you can find me spending time with my family and friends, traveling the world, baking, and reading. I have three children who will also be a part of the Grinnell-Newburg family, Willa (7th grade), Cason (4th grade), and Lucy (2nd grade). We are all excited for this new adventure!

Let's have a great school year!

Heather O'Neal
Bus Barn
Bus Driver

Hello, my name is Heather O'Neal. I am proud to serve as a bus driver with Grinnell-Newburg CSD. My roots are in Louisiana, where I was born and raised. I am still very much a Southern girl at heart, especially when the snow inevitably arrives each winter. Iowa has been my home for the past two years, one of those residing in Grinnell. I have two very spirited children: my son attends Fairview Elementary and my daughter has reached adulthood. In my free time, I cherish making memories with my husband and children, getting lost in a good book, and exploring exciting new places through travel. I look forward to building meaningful connections with the students I have the privilege of transporting.

Colton Ironside
Grinnell High School
Vocal Music Teacher

My name is Colton Ironside and I will be the Choir Director at Grinnell High School. I grew up in Marion, Iowa and graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. I will be starting my fourth year of teaching this fall and am excited to make some great music this school year! In my spare time, I love biking, swimming, and baking. I tell myself the healthy parts of the first two balance out the latter's unhealthiness.

Rhonda Scull
Grinnell High School
Special Education

I am Rhonda Scull and I'm entering my 33rd year of teaching! I am beyond excited to return to the very same classroom at Grinnell High School that I left 15 years ago, and where I spent the first 17 years of my teaching career working with students with special needs. It feels amazing to come back home to family and the community that I grew up in!

While away from Iowa I lived in DeLand, Florida. I taught Physical Education, STEM, and Special Education. I also spent time as an Academic Coach for Science & Math and served as a Program Specialist supporting teachers who served students with special needs.

Outside of work, I enjoy traveling, reading, being out in nature, bird watching, and relaxing on any beach. I am looking forward to once again being a part of my family's daily lives and watching my great nieces and nephews grow up!

Nathan Johnson
Grinnell High School
Band Director

My name is Nathan Johnson, and I'm thrilled to be kicking off my 11th year as a band director. For the past four years, I've been living in Malcom with my wonderful wife, Farren. When I'm not making music, you'll find me building things, repairing saxophones, tinkering with cars. I can't wait to start this exciting journey with the high school band at Grinnell Schools. Let's make some great music together!

Laura Garvin
Bailey Park Elementary
Kindergarten Teacher

Hello! My name is Laura Garvin and I am the new Kindergarten teacher at Bailey Park Elementary. I have been teaching 1st grade for the past ten years in the Ankeny Community School District. I am so excited to join the Grinnell-Newburg School District and build relationships with the students and staff. Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my fiancé Quincy, reading, fishing, sipping on coffee, and cheering on the Hawkeyes. I am looking forward to a great school year!

Greg Prather
Grinnell High School & Middle School
Business & Computer Science Teacher

My name is Greg Prather and I will be taking over as the new Business Teacher in Grinnell. I grew up in Victor, graduating from HLV in 1998 and then went to the University of Northern Iowa. After a short stint as an auditor, I went back to school for education and I have spent the last 16 years teaching in Belle Plaine. In my free time, I love to watch movies, TV, and read. I also enjoy going to school activities and sporting events and have season tickets to Hawkeye Football and Women's Basketball. I am really looking forward to this new chapter in my career. I can't wait to get to know everyone and start building relationships. Go Tigers!

Shana Yates
Fairview Elementary
Preschool Paraprofessional

Hi, my name is Shana Yates and I am the new Preschool Paraeducator at Fairview Elementary! I was born and raised in Wisconsin, but my husband and I moved to Grinnell 6 1/2 years ago. We have a 5 year old daughter and a 3 year old black lab that keep us very busy! In my spare time, I love to read, garden and travel, and we love to be involved in our community! I am really looking forward to my new adventure with the Grinnell-Newburg School District family, and I am very excited to work with the new preschoolers and watch their growth throughout the school year! Go Tigers!!

Shawn Kass
Grinnell High School
Math Teacher

My name is Shawn Kass and I will be joining the Grinnell Newburg High School as a teacher of mathematics. My wife and I moved to Grinnell a year ago. I've taught for 18 years across the United States and outside of it as well. I'm also a US veteran and published author. In my free time, I enjoy writing, playing video games and reading. Additionally, I'm an avid comic book and superhero enthusiast. I'm looking forward to assisting my students and instructing them in advanced levels of mathematics.

Laynie McFarland
Bailey Park Elementary
2nd Grade Teacher

Hello my name is Laynie McFarland. I am very excited to be teaching second grade at Bailey Park this year. Beginning the first year of a new career is always special, however being able to come back to your hometown to teach is even more of a blessing. I am eager to meet new students as well as seeing some familiar faces. I look forward most to building positive relationships with each student. This fall many of my evenings will be spent with the Grinnell high school volleyball team as I got the opportunity to coach the freshman team this year. Looking forward to a great season! When I am not at school I love taking my dog Maisie for long walks. Another favorite is going kayaking or fishing with my husband. I am looking forward to continuing to be involved in my community. Go Tigers!

Jaysea Miller
Grinnell High School
Social Studies Teacher

Hi! My name is Jaysea Miller and I am a recent graduate from The University of Northern Iowa. I have been given the opportunity to be Grinnell-Newburgs new Social Studies Teacher! Words can not express how excited I am to kick off my teaching career in such a school district as Grinnell-Newburg. As for a little bit about me, I grew up in Reasnor, IA, and graduated high school in Newton, IA. Outside of school, I love to read, work out, spend time with my family and friends, eat chips and queso, and do anything that involves the outdoors. I look forward to meeting everyone here soon!

Life-threatening Food Allergies

The Grinnell-Newburg School District's food allergy task force would like to thank all district parents, staff, and students for their cooperation, compliance, and flexibility as we continue implementing our procedures to manage life-threatening food allergies. We have appreciated the compassionate understanding of our district staff, students, and community members as we work together to ensure that our schools and school functions are welcoming and safe for students who live with life-threatening food allergies and attend our schools.

As a reminder, a copy of the procedures, as well as an FAQ is posted on our district website under "Parent Resources". We encourage you to read these documents as they are a great resource for all of us. Also, should you have any questions about the procedures, or what you may or may not bring to a classroom or event, please contact a building principal, your child's teacher, or the school nurse.

Many children with food allergies can experience some of these common symptoms: hives, itchiness, rash, cough, or sneezing. But others can have a more significant reaction, experiencing vomiting, swelling of the throat, and breathing problems; this is called anaphylaxis and it can lead to death if not immediately treated. Even if they learn to read labels and avoid certain foods, these children may be exposed to minute, harmful residues by touching doorknobs, tables, and others' hands. For the ever- increasing number of students and their families who are affected and for whom anaphylactic shock could occur within seconds of ingestion or tactile contact with an allergy causing food, this is a serious issue. By providing district-wide procedures, our goal is to create the safest environment possible for those with food allergies.

Our task force can include school staff, administrators, parents, students, or community members. If you would be interested in participating on this taskforce, please reach out to the building principal or school nurse. In some instances, when there is a child with a food allergy in a classroom, the procedures for that classroom or building may be stricter than those required district wide. This is in an effort to create a safe and inclusive learning environment with all of our student's needs in mind.

Once again, we appreciate your support. As an educational environment, we believe in our capacity to educate our families, teachers, and students to better understand and live with life-threatening food allergies.

READING AND UNDERSTANDING FOOD LABELS

If you would like to provide a snack or treat to celebrate a special occasion, please review the following information. No homemade treats are allowed. If you wish to purchase treats, please read the entire label for allergen warnings.

Guidance on reading US food labels for allergens

INGREDIENTS: OIL BLEND (PALM, COCONUT, BUTTER), PROTEIN BLEND (WHEY PROTEIN CONCENTRATE, WHEY PROTEIN ISOLATE, COLLAGEN PEPTIDES), ERYTHRITOL, NATURAL FLAVORS, XANTHAN GUM, SALT, SOY LECITHIN, CARRAGEENAN, DEXTROSE, STEVIA LEAF EXTRACT, SILICA, GUAR GUM.

CONTAINS MILK.

MANUFACTURED IN A FACILITY THAT ALSO PROCESSES WHEAT.

US Labels should cover the 9 major food allergens: Peanuts, Fish, Tree Nuts, Soybeans. Eggs, Shellfish, Milk, Wheat, and Sesame

The Grinnell school district encourages parents to consider a **non-food activity**, such as extra recess time, art, music, or gym activities, etc., to celebrate birthdays so that everyone in the classroom is included. Please speak to your child's teacher as they have some wonderful ideas to help celebrate your child's special day.

If you are interested in providing a treat for a *classroom party*, Please call or email the Food Service Director to order items that meet the Smart Snacks USDA guidelines, as well as be reviewed for allergens specific to the class room.

641-236-2668
kim.sieck@grinnell-k12.org

DO YOU HAVE A CONCERN?

Steps to take when you have a concern within the Grinnell-Newburg School District

Step #1:
Take your concern to the person closest to the problem.

No matter what the problem is, take your concern there first. Whether in the classroom, on the bus, or on the practice field, the quickest and easiest solution is usually found with the staff member most directly involved. It's best if you take time to talk with the school personnel regularly, before problems are encountered. Know who your children's teachers are and how they can be contacted. Tell them when things are going well and communicate any concerns you have quickly and openly. If you call for an appointment to see your child's teachers, why not let them know in advance the general nature of your concern? This gives them the opportunity to ask other staff members for information that might relate to your problem or concern. If a personal visit isn't possible, why not call to state the problem, and during the conversation, offer to call back at a time you both can discuss the situation more in detail. The concern you or your child faces may be a result of an oversight or a misunderstanding that can be easily corrected once brought to the attention of the staff member most directly involved. Give them a chance to tackle the problem first.

Step #2:
Present your concern to the next level.

The principal at each building is responsible for supervision of staff within that particular building. The director of transportation supervises all school bus drivers. Each one is an example of the next level of school personnel you should contact if the staff member closest to the problem hasn't been able to satisfactorily resolve the difficulty. Their ability to help will be improved if you share the steps you have already taken with the staff member closest to the problem. Take time to openly share with them the reasons why you feel uncomfortable dealing directly with the person who is closest to the situation. Supervisory personnel will rarely have access to the information they need to be of immediate assistance and working through them will often require additional time.

Step #3:
Talk with the superintendent of schools.

Sometimes all the best intentions can't solve a problem. When you believe you have taken the problem to the next level but still haven't achieved a satisfactory outcome, the superintendent of schools is the next place to go. Part of a superintendent's job requires attendance at area-wide meetings outside the district. As a consequence, a meeting with the superintendent will probably require some advance planning.

Step #4:
Contact your school board member after other means have been tried.

School board members are elected to represent the interest of all parents and district residents; therefore, you should always feel free to tell them your point of view. School board members do not, however, have direct authority in day-to-day operations. All authority is the result of official actions by a majority of the board at meetings open to the public. The board's primary responsibility is to make policies that guide the school district. Any change in policy requires two readings at two separate public meetings, a procedure that often takes two or more months. Some policy changes may require substantial public input and consultation with the school district's attorney. These requirements often increase the time required for the board to make a response.

So, when should a board member be contacted and what can they do?

Contact a board member...

- After other means to solve a problem have been tried.
- When a policy is being enforced but you believe it results in bad consequences.
- When you believe a policy isn't being enforced.
- When policies or procedures are not enforced fairly for all.

A board member may take one or all of the following actions:

- Informally discuss the issue with the superintendent to consider whether policies or rules would be changed.
- Request to the board president to review the specific policies that relate to the situation.
- Propose new policies for the board's consideration.

Unfairness, misunderstanding, hurt feelings, and conflicts are experiences common to all of us. When children experience these problems at school, it causes difficulty not only for children but also for parents and school staff. These guidelines have been put in place in order to successfully solve problems at school.

2024-2025 Grinnell-Newburg District Calendar (FINAL)

Summary of Calendar:
191 Teacher Days/
174 student days

Days/Hrs. in classroom:
174 days/1140 hours

TOTAL HRS 1140

CALENDAR LEGEND

Begin / End
Early Dismissal
P/T Conf.
PD / In-Service
Holidays
Vacation Days

Does not include Professional Development days/hours.

Paid Contract Holidays:

Labor Day (9/2)
Thanksgiving Day (11/28)
Winter Holiday (12/25)
New Year's Day (1/1)
Martin Luther King Jr. Day(1/20)
President's Day (2/17)
Memorial Day (5/26)

174 Student Days
10 Professional Dev. Days
7 Paid Holidays
191 Total Days (Staff)

Note: In-service Days may be classified as Career Development and/or Professional Development depending on the content of the activities being performed.

August 2024				Student Days/Hours		
M	T	W	Th	F		
5	6	7	8	9		
12	13	14	15	16		
19	20	21	22	23	1	4.5
26	27	28	29	30	6	37
September 2024						
2	3	4	5	6	10	63
9	10	11	12	13	15	95.5
16	17	18	19	20	20	128
23	24	25	26	27	25	160.5
30						
October 2024						
	1	2	3	4	30	193
7	8	9	10	11	34	219
14	15	16	17	18	38	253
21	22	23	24	25	43	282.5
28	29	30	31			
November 2024						
				1	48	318
4	5	6	7	8	52	344
11	12	13	14	15	57	376.5
18	19	20	21	22	62	409
25	26	27	28	29	64	422
December 2024						
2	3	4	5	6	69	454.5
9	10	11	12	13	74	487
16	17	18	19	20	79	517.5
23	24	25	26	27		
30	31					
January 2025						
		1	2	3	81	530.5
6	7	8	9	10	86	563
13	14	15	16	17	91	595.5
20	21	22	23	24	95	621.5
27	28	29	30	31	99	655.5
February 2025						
3	4	5	6	7	103	681.5
10	11	12	13	14	108	714
17	18	19	20	21	112	740
24	25	26	27	28	117	772.5
March 2025						
3	4	5	6	7	122	805
10	11	12	13	14	127	837.5
17	18	19	20	21		
24	25	26	27	28	132	870
31						
April 2025						
	1	2	3	4	137	902.5
7	8	9	10	11	141	928.5
14	15	16	17	18	146	961
21	22	23	24	25	151	993.5
28	29	30				
May 2025						
			1	2	156	1026
5	6	7	8	9	160	1052
12	13	14	15	16	165	1084.5
19	20	21	22	23	170	1117
26	27	28	29	30	174	1141
June 2025						
2	3	4	5	6		

1080 Hour Calendar

Aug. 16 & 19: New Teacher In-Service
Aug: 20-22: Teacher In-Service (3)
Aug: 23: First Day of School
1:00 dismissal

Sept. 2: No School (Labor Day)

Oct. 7: No School – Prof. Dev. (4)
Oct. 17: 1:00 Dismissal – PT Conferences
2:00-8:00 PM (4.5)
Oct. 18: No School – PT Conferences
8:00 AM – Noon (5)

Nov. 4: No School – Prof. Dev. (6)
Nov. 15: End of 1st Trimester
Nov. 18: Beginning of 2nd Trimester
Nov. 27-29: No School (Fall Break)

Dec. 20: 1:00 dismissal
Dec. 23-Jan. 1: No School (Winter Break)

Jan. 2: School Resumes
Jan. 20: No School (MLK Day)
Jan. 30: 1:00 Dismissal – PT Conferences
2:00-8:00 PM (7.5)
Jan. 31: No School – PT Conferences
8:00 AM – Noon (7)

Feb. 3: No School – Prof. Dev. (8)
Feb. 17: No School (President's Day) OR
Make Up Snow Day
Feb. 28: End of 2nd Trimester

Mar. 3: Beginning of 3rd Trimester
Mar 17-21: No School – Spring Break

April 7: No School – Prof. Dev. (9)

May 5: No School – Prof. Dev. (10)
May 25: HS Commencement 2:00pm
May 26: No School – Memorial Day
May 30: Last Day of School – 1:00
Dismissal

*Snow Make Up Date: If school is canceled prior to Jan 31, the make up day will be Feb 7 (President's Day)