

### **Principally Speaking**

It is hard to believe the first quarter has ended. Please be sure to sign up to visit your child's teacher on November 9th. Communication between teacher and parent is so vital in ensuring a positive experience for your child. Have those crucial conversations that address concerns and be a problem solver. Also, conferences are a great time to challenge and praise your children.

Our attendance has been very good for the first two months of school. Please continue to value that attendance matters!

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just 1 or 2 days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college.

American Education Week is coming up November 13-17. I hope you take time to thank our staff members: teachers, paras, custodians, office, cooks, and bus drivers. They are ALL important players in making our school a truly successful place to be.

Sincerely, John J. Decker john.decker@k12.sd.us 605-882-6390 November 1st, 2023

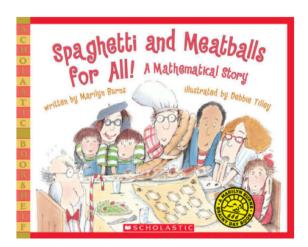
#### Special Points of Interest:

- Nov. 1st PTO meeting at noon
- Nov. 7th 4th grade Veteran's PayProgram @ 2:30 pm & 6:00 pm
- Nov. 9th- 12:20 early dismissal. 1:00 pm 8:00 pm Parent Conferences
- Nov. 10th No School, Observe Veteran's Pay
- Nov. 22nd 24th Thanksgiving Break (No School)





#### **BOOK of the MONTH**



### Spaghetti and Meatballs for All

Kids will exercise their early math skills with this bestselling picture book.

Mr. Comfort is cooking up his famous spaghetti and meatballs, while Mrs. Comfort carefully arranges eight tables and thirty-two chairs so that everyone will have a seat. Then the guests show up with their own seating plans!

The wit and humor of this entertaining story draw children into thinking about area and perimeter. Includes a special section that outlines math concepts and provides questions to further engage children.

impact on farm management.

#### CHARACTER TRAIT of the Month-TRUSTWORTHINESS

- Be honest.
- Don't deceive, cheat or steal.
- Be reliable do what you say you'll do.
- Have the courage to do the right thing.
- Build a good reputation.
- Be loyal stand by your family and friends.





### **Social Skills of the Month**

#### Greeting Others:

- Here are the steps to Greeting others:
- 1. Look at the person
- 2. Use a pleasant voi-
- 3. Say "hi" or "hello"



# How to Get The Teacher's Attention

Eyes up – look at the teacher!



Hand Up - raise your hand!



Wait for the teacher to call your name.



Use your words & voice NICELY.







ParentGuidance.org

https://www.pbs.org/parents



FREE ONLINE
TUTORING FOR
K-12 STUDENTS

https://ourdakotadreams.com/elementarymiddle-school/online-tutoring/



https://sdsfec.org/



### **Jefferson School Library**

Dear Parents,

Reading is one for the most important skills your child will learn in school. Like all skills, improvement comes with practice, and the Jefferson School Library provides a wide variety of books for students to borrow for reading practice, information, and enjoyment. Your student's class will visit the school library weekly to select books. You can help your student by reading to or with him/her and asking questions about the story. Encourage your child to spend time reading at home every day.

- Students are responsible to handle library books with care, since they are for everyone to share. Please keep books away from pets, food, and all liquids.
- Any book damage should be reported to the library as soon as possible so we can attempt repairs.
- If a book is lost or damaged, payment toward a replacement will be requested from the parents.
- oldspace if your family plans to move, please return all books before moving.

We hope your children will read and enjoy many books and grow in reading skills while attending our school.



#### Circle Drive - Drop offs and Pick ups

- \*\*To keep the circle drive running smoothly, we ask that you do not leave your car unattended in the circle drive between 8 & 8:30 or between 3 & 3:30. Please park in the street and walk in the front door.
- \*\*No dawdling please. Be courteous of others waiting for your spot in the circle drive.
- \*\*Pull forward. Please move forward and not stop right in front of the door. Your child can walk on the side walk to the front door. We have staff to guide them.
- \*\*Cell phones should not be in use while you are driving. Please refrain from using them while driving.
- \*\*Model proper behavior. Please do not run between moving vehicles with your child. This is very dangerous. As your child gets older, they will continue to practice your teaching and will do this when you are not around.





### **FALL 2023 CONFERENCES**

Jefferson Parent/Teacher conferences will be held Thursday, November 9th from 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Conferences will be held in person.

We ask that you stick to the 15 minute time slot. We ask that additional time needed be set up at a later date. Please find your teacher's site below to sign up for your 15 minute conference.

#### KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Asmussen Mrs. Flatten Ms. Foust

#### **FIRST**

Mrs. Swenson Dr. Tisher Mrs. Vega

#### SECOND

Mrs. Johnson Mrs. Ramos Mrs. Stemwedel

ELEME

https://tinyurl.com/4zhjxdwm https://tinyurl.com/mwcuusay https://tinyurl.com/4ftmz78x

https://tinyurl.com/736nfa45 https://tinyurl.com/ymzzdc84 https://tinyurl.com/yc35k6nt

https://tinyurl.com/786x5vcc https://tinyurl.com/45kekjfb https://tinyurl.com/44hvu6dj

#### **THIRD**

Mrs. Deutsch Mrs. McLaughlin Mrs. Stoick https://tinyurl.com/73ccrjhc https://tinyurl.com/55huxp5t https://tinyurl.com/yn2vtv3r

#### **FOURTH**

Mrs. Hogue Mrs. Miller Mrs. Wietzema https://tinyurl.com/2nrrwnah https://tinyurl.com/yhbyt59d https://tinyurl.com/y4jwnff3





# Developing Healthy Habits in Kids that Last a Lifetime

Cold and flu season can be a challenging time for parents. With kids in close quarters at school, it can feel like germs are all around, at home and in the classroom. With the right strategies, you can help keep your family protected from illness-causing germs during the fall and winter seasons.

#### **Teach Proper Cough and Sneeze Etiquette**

Covering coughs and sneezes is crucial in preventing the spread of viruses and bacteria. Teach kids to cough or sneeze into their elbows or a tissue and dispose of the tissue properly. Lysol is proud to share a variety of resources aimed at making healthy habits education engaging and informational, including lesson plans, posters, and activities that can be used year-round. Visit Lysol.com/HERE to download the free resources and learn more.

#### Maintain a Disinfected Home Environment

When your kids come home from school, they can bring germs with them. Regularly disinfect frequently touched surfaces in your home, such as doorknobs, light switches, and remote controls throughout cold and flu season to help stop the spread of illness-causing germs. Lysol Disinfecting Wipes kill 99.9 percent of viruses and bacteria when used as directed and make it easy to clean and disinfect hard surfaces around the home on a regular basis.



## **Boost Immunity through Nutrition**

Eating a well-balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, proteins, and dairy can give your child's immune system the strength it needs to ward off potential illnesses. When your kids are enjoying their after school snacks or family dinner, remember to reflect all of these food groups in their meals and remind your child about the importance of making healthy choices.

#### Stock Up on Essentials

There's no better time than cold and flu season to stock your home with essential products to help stop the spread of germs. In your child's school bag, you can provide a travel-sized pack of tissues for personal use and a small bottle of hand sanitizer to empower them to maintain cleanliness while at school and help cut back on pathogens they might bring home. In your home, keep disinfecting products like Lysol Disinfectant Spray and Lysol Disinfecting Wipes on hand so you are prepared when illness-causing germs enter your household.



Source: Lysol Here for Healthy Schools



#### **KNOW YOUR ROLE!**

"Know your role..." was a term made famous by 'The Rock' Dwayne Johnson. It refers to the role(s) that each of us have and the importance of knowing what is expected of us in each of our roles. The role of a school counselor is often misunderstood. One myth that exists is that school counselors only help the most "needy" students. In actuality, we provide help to ALL students. The elementary counselors for the Watertown School District provide all K-6 students with a standards based core school counseling curriculum entitled Second Step.

Which leads me to another myth: Classroom counseling lessons are a bonus activity that happen only if there is extra time. At a minimum, the WSD K-4 counselors are in each classroom every other week teaching these lessons. When staff identify a need for students to receive additional social skills training, we create customized lessons to address these specific skills. When students require extra support or practice outside the classroom, the school counselor provides small group or individual counseling services as needed. These services consist of short-term, solution-focused interventions. If long-term, more intensive therapy is required to effectively support a student's needs, we will work with the parents to refer them to a licensed, outpatient therapist.

Myth #3: School counselors and other types of educators can be hired interchangeably. Even though a school counselor is generally not a licensed, outpatient therapist doesn't mean that they do not have a higher level of training. In order to be a school counselor, one has to complete a Master's degree in school counseling. School counselor's are uniquely trained in areas of human development, trauma, relationships, crisis response, specific counseling theories, strategies and techniques and confidentiality.

Confidentiality is a legal term that refers to the duty of a professional to refrain from sharing private and personal information with others without the consent of the other party. Myth #4: A school counselor never shares what student's talk about. A student's right to privacy and confidentiality is the basis for an effective counseling relationship. Confidentiality ensures that school counselors won't share students' disclosures with others except when the student authorizes it or when there is a clear and present danger to the student and/or other persons; i.e. plans of suicide. School counselors like most school employees are considered "mandated reporters" under the law. This means that we are required by law to report reasonable suspicions of abuse.

While we do not disclose personal information, school counselors do a great deal of collaborating. Successful schools implement a team approach to generate student success. School counselors collaborate with a large team of people to achieve this success including; parents/guardians, students, paraprofessionals, teachers, school psychologists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, physical therapists and administration.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of your child's team. Hopefully this has helped you know the role of your WSD K-6 school counselors.

Marissa Stone McKinley Counselor 882-6350 marissa.stone@k12.sd.us

Pam Luecke Lincoln/Jefferson Counselor 882-6340 (Li), 882-6390 (Je) pam.luecke@k12.sd.us Kelsey Popham Roosevelt Counselor 882-6360 kelsey.popham@k12.sd.us

Paula Wilde Intermediate School 882-6355 paula.wilde@k12.sd.us Kristi Koll Mellette/Jefferson Counselor 882-6385 (Me), 882-6390 (Je) kristi.koll@k12.sd.us



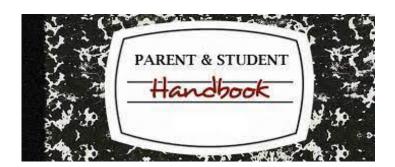
#### Tips to reduce screen time

Limiting screen time to just a few hours a day may not be realistic, but these tips can help slim your family's screen time



- \* <u>Lead by example</u>- Reduce your own screen time.
- \* Set daily screen time limits It's not about punishment, it's about keeping a balance.
- \* Resist giving mobile devices to children when going out- Take books or toys instead.
- \* **Set tech-free times/zones at home** For example, no screens in bedrooms after 8 pm or no screens at dinner table.
- \* Use tech tools to manage access- Such as parental controls.
- \* **Plan screen-free time/activities** Family game night, outside play, music time, and sports.
- \* **Be involved** Watch TV and play your child's favorite games together.





#### **DRESS CODE**

Students should wear clothing which is clean, in good taste, and does not attract other than normal attention. Clothing displaying obscenities or slogans inappropriate to school will not be permitted. Shorts should be long enough so the child's fingertips touch the hem part. Halter tops or spaghetti straps are prohibited. During the winter months, snow pants, boots, and gloves are necessary to be at the chilly playground. If you are in need assistance of clothing for your child, please contact the school counselors or the principal for assistance (882-6390)

#### DROPPING OFF ITEMS

We ask that parents or relatives bring their child's belonging(s) to the office or leave in the entry after communicating with the office. We will ensure that the student will get the item. <u>Going directly to their child's</u> locker or classroom is prohibited.

#### **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Personal electronic devices, such as personal iPads, Nooks, Kindles, and Phone Watches may be used in the classroom <u>at the discretion of the teacher.</u> They may be utilized for reading purposes. ALL other electronic devices are prohibited



# Dental are For Your Kids!

Mhe Delta Dental Mobile Program Is oming To

Location: Lake Area Technical College

1201 Arrow Ave, Watertown, SD Use North doors on 3rd Ave NE

Dates: **December 4-8, 2023** 



Mare is provided to children from their 1st tooth through age 21 who haven't seen an area dentist in two years.

There is no cost to the child or family. No insurance is needed.

For more information and registration

ontact: Kathy Dargatz, 605-886-7674

**Inter-Lakes Community Action Partnership** 

7 - 8th Ave SE, Watertown, SD

The Mobile Program is brought to our community by











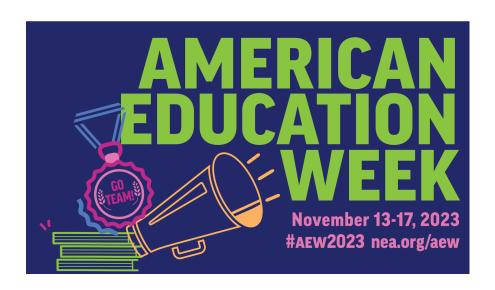


Would you like to come have lunch with your child? Parents or grandparents may come and have lunch with their children or grandchildren.

•Please call the school the day before or prior to 9 am to order a school lunch. Adult meals cost \$5.10. (Your child will LOVE to show you how to go through the lunch line.)

- Check into the office and then meet your child in the hallway that enters into the dining room.
- You can come to school as often as you wish.

Not only will your child love it, their friends will too. Your children grow up so quickly. Come and enjoy their day.



Turkey Bingo

Date: November 16th

Time: 5:30 p.m. concessions will open

6:00 to 8 p.m. Bingo will begin

Location: Codington Extension Building



#### Jefferson Elementary PTO Agenda October 4, 2023

#### 1. PTO Mission

"The mission of Jefferson Elementary PTO is to develop a closer connection between school and home by encouraging parent involvement; enhance the educational experience by supporting academic and enrichment activities; and improve the environment at Jefferson Elementary by providing volunteer and financial support."

#### 2. Introductions/Sign up Sheet

- a. Administrative Items
  - i. Review Checkbook balance: \$4,440.58
    - Outstanding bills: None
    - ii. Putting Mr. Decker as 3<sup>rd</sup> Signer in May
    - iii. Venmo needs to updated: Reached out to Susan and Allison.
    - iv. Lona is in communication with Caitlin for Popcorn supplies.
    - v. Laurie is reimbursing teachers as she gets the receipts (100\$/certified teacher)
    - vi. Laurie Paid Mr. Decker for our portion of the shirts. \$460 (23 shirts at 20\$/each)
    - vii. Jamie to be reimbursed for Sub of Month

#### **Past Events**

#### Homecoming

- 1. Taylor L from Sharps dropped off truck at Jefferson
- 2. Dave and Mr. Decker put on Vinyl Signs and returned the truck after parade.
- 3. Vinyl Signs purchased from Jurgens: Gave 25% off in less than a week turnaround. About 80\$/Sign. 3 were purchased.
- 4. Float: Parent involvement before having a float. Teachers?
- 5. Dave, Mr. Heiser, Randy, and Sharps Need Thank you!
- 6. PTO Input?

#### Bake Sale

- 1. Amount received:\$565 (check to Student Council: \$282.50
- 2. Check to be given to Jefferson Elementary Student Council
- 3. PTO Input?

Student Directory: Lauren Olerud completed. (Thank You given)

#### New Agenda:

1. Jaguar Gear: Poster on Bulletin Board, FB post, and link to be sent out school wide to shop store. Updated to remove Homecoming information. -will post the Jaguar Gear "Santa" picture a few times between now and the end of the year. Will also get a printout to be sent home in the students' take home folders.

2. Turkey Bingo:

Date: November 16, 2023 at Codington Extension Building

Time: Doors open 5.30 Bingo 6-8pm

Contact name: Becky/Kim 605-882-6300 Codington Extension Building

Contract and 50\$ deposit was paid/look into records to make sure wasn't already paid. Insurance.

- Total is \$305 – still owe \$255; contract is signed; Laurie is going to ask if they still have our insurance on file from previous years



See Checklist for details, donation sheet electronically and paper copy if needed.

Need to order the turkeys.

- Kylie will make a flyer for turkey sponsors and bake sale SUG information
  - Will send out the week of 10/16
- Make tags to put on turkeys to show which families donated??
- Will send out email blast to volunteers with "All About Turkey Bingo" page to see if we can get more volunteers
  - Will send certain businesses to those volunteers and have them email back, instead of everyone having access to the Google Sheet
- Thank yous for all the sponsors to be done by 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders will have a spreadsheet for the kids to write what was specifically given by each sponsor
  - 3. Conference Meal: Nov. 9th

Theme: Baked Potato Bar - Laurie and Kylie

SUG: For Items

Set up time: 11:30/Noon

4. National Education Week: November 13-17<sup>th</sup>

In past delivered apples and explained PTO to students.

Delivering Tuesday, Nov 14 – Taylor, Jamie, and Kylie

Jefferson Elementary Population to know how many to order from Hyvee Need 2-3 Volunteers to hand out apples

date/time:

5 Yearbook: Message teachers to keep record of pictures so don't wait till the end of the

#### Administrative Report (Mr. Decker)

- 1. Attendance
  - a. Has increased in our district; battling chronic absenteeism
- 2. Test Scores
  - a. ELA increased by 6%

#### **Monthly Items**

6.Teacher Requests?

7.PTO input?

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at Noon. Bring your own lunch

#### PTO Events:

August: Open House, Open House Lunch for Teachers, 1st Day of School Muffins/Drinks for Teachers,

Picture Day helpers

September: Homecoming Bakesale, Homecoming Float

November: Teacher meal for Conferences, National Education Week: Apples, Turkey Bingo

December: Staff Christmas Gifts (Last Year was Air fryer, aluminum foil, and coffee)

February: Conference Meal, Dr. Seus Birthday

March: Movie Night, Yearbook

April: Talent Show, Yearbook continued

May: Teacher Appreciation, Teacher Retirement Gifts, End of Year Party



## **DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS**

Watertown School District 14-4

Early Childhood



## SCREENING INFORMATION ★

- Developmental Screenings are for children ages 3-5 years old
- They must reside in the Watertown School District
- Screenings are conducted for potential delays in speech/language, motor, cognitive, and social/emotional development
- Must schedule an appointment
- Screenings will be held at Mellette Elementary School



#### **SCREENING DATES:**

September 22, 2023 November 17, 2023 January 26, 2024 March 8, 2024



## CONTACT INFORMATION

To schedule an appointment please call Kara at (605) 882-6350

Consistent with Federal and State regulations, the Watertown School District engages in ongoing "Child Find" services to locate, identify, and evaluate all students with disabilities residing within its jurisdiction, age birth through 21 inclusive.



## Weather and School Updates by Dr. Jeff Danielsen, Superintendent

As we get to the time of year when the winter weather is approaching, I am writing this column to remind everyone of how late starts, early dismissals, and no school day decisions are made. It is important that you know, as parents, that your child's safety is my utmost concern. I also want you to know that if you don't agree with my decision, you can keep your child home or come and pick your child up from school early. The best decision possible is made with the weather information that we have – we view several television stations, drive the roads, as well as talk with the National Weather Service.

Late starts – Late starts are called for two reasons. The main reason is that we need more time to get the busses out on the country roads and we need the daylight for the roads in town and out of town to begin the plowing process. On a normal day, our bus drivers are ready to head out about 6:30-6:45 AM. When we have a 10:30 late start, that delays that time until 8:30 – 8:45 AM. The second reason is to "buy time", to see if the weather is going to get better and improve to start at 10:30 AM. I know this sometimes causes concern because of day care situations for parents, but I do use the late start time to review the conditions and see if they are going to improve. If they are not improving, then a "no school" decision is made.

**Early dismissals** – Early dismissals in the winter are primarily called to get students home with inclement weather during daylight hours. We may use a 12:30, 1:30 or 2:30 early dismissal time.

**No School** – We call no school when either weather is too difficult to get children to school with our busses (typically in town roads are better), and/or the weather is predicted to become worse throughout the day. This decision begins about 4:30-5:00 AM with several of us driving the in town roads and country roads. It also includes talking with meteorologists in Aberdeen about their predictions for snowfall, winds, etc. We make the best decisions possible, and sometimes the predictions are not 100% accurate.

Regarding cold temperatures: We will not call school off for cold temperatures unless the air temperature gets to the 25 to 30 below mark. Our busses are well heated and will run fine unless it is in that range of air temperature (busses don't feel wind chill). We do keep our buildings open for students when it is cold. Students won't wait outside in the bus lines, playground, etc. on those days. Unfortunately, the television media sometimes plays into the hype of calling off school around the state. You can be assured that we will not bring students to school if we believe they are in danger. If they have to walk to school on those cold days, I would ask that you find neighbors and friends and ask if they can help give your child a ride (please plan ahead). If you believe it is too cold, you can keep your child home.

Northeastern SD is one of the coldest parts of the state during the winter and if we called off for the two-three weeks of cold weather we wouldn't be in session any of those days – that is why we use the 25-30 air temperature mark decision. Remember to help your child(ren) dress appropriately for cold weather – hats, boots, mittens, coats.

I hope this article helps you to understand that thought process that goes into late starts, early dismissals, no school calls, and cold weather. As your Superintendent, I take your child's safety very seriously. We do our best, barring problems with technology, to get information to all television stations, our radio stations, our district website, and our phone calls to your home or cell phone to get you the latest information. Please make sure that your information is kept up-to-date at the principal's office so that the communication reaches you. Thank you.



## November

2023

Menu is subject to change according to availability of product – check online menu for updates

\*Fruit and Milk(11g,19g) is offered at ALL Breakfast Meals,

\*Veggie Bar, Fruit Selection and Milk Selection(11g,19g) are offered on ALL Lunch meals!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Breakfast: Mini Bagels (42g), Yogurt (19g) Lunch: Chili – 25g Cinnamon Roll – 33g	2 Breakfast: Waffle (36g), Sausage Lunch: Chicken Alfredo – 19g Breadstick – 17g Frozen Peach Cup – 21g	3 Breakfast: Pumpkin Bread (45g), String Cheese Lunch: Pizza – 24g Green Beans – 4g	. 4
5	6 Breakfast: Poptart (76g), String Cheese Lunch: Chicken Patty Sandwich – 45g Baked Beans – 30g	7 Breakfast: Mini John (12g, 28g), Yogurt (19g) Lunch: Walking Taco – 20g, 28g Assorted Toppings Strawberry Cup – 21g	Breakfast: Pancake Bites (15g, 20g) Lunch: Chicken Cubes w/ gravy - Mashed Potatoes - 25g Dinner Roll – 17g	*Early Out 9 Breakfast: Cinni Mini (40g), Go- gurt (8g) Lunch: Cheeseburger – 29g Chips – 24g Apple Slices –	NO SCHOOL	11
12	13 Breakfast: Muffin (32g), String Cheese Lunch: Pizza – 29g Green Beans – 4g	Breakfast: Funnel Cake, Go- gurt Lunch: Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce - 25g Garlic Toast - 12g Frozen Peach Cup - 21g	15 Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza (22g) Lunch: Chicken Nuggets – 16g Baked Beans – 30g	16 Breakfast: Pancake (13g), Sausage Lunch: Turkey w/ gravy Mashed Potatoes – 25g Dinner Roll – 17g	17 Breakfast: Brekkie (51g), Yogurt (19g) Lunch: Italian Dunkers – 34g, 51g Marinara Sauce – 10g Corn – 17g	18
19	20 Breakfast: Cereal (24g), String Cheese Lunch: Chicken Strips – 12g, 18g Carrots – 5g Chex – 20g	21 Breakfast: French Toast (37g), Sausage Lunch: Super Nachos – 21g, 31g Refried Beans – 18g	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	no school Happy anksgivii	NO SCHOOL	25
26	27 Breakfast: Cereal Bar (28g), String Cheese Lunch: BBQ Sandwich – 29g Waffle Fries – 18g	28 Breakfast: Mini Donuts (20g, 26g), Egg Lunch: Popcorn Chicken – 14g Mashed Potatoes – 25g Dinner Roll – 17g	29 Breakfast: Mini Bagels (42g), Yogurt (19g) Lunch: Chili – 25g Cinnamon Roll – 33g	30 Breakfast: Waffle (36g), Sausage Lunch: Chicken Alfredo - Breadstick - 17g Strawberry Cup - 21g		