

NOVEMBER

MONTHLY

COLT COUNTRY

* 5 12th St SW, Watertown, SD 57201 * www.watertown.k12.sd.us * 605-882-6350 * 605-882-6351 fax *

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Your child's attendance is the most important factor to their success in school. Please make sure your child is in school, on time, every day. We understand that illness happens. If your child has a temperature of 100 or higher, they should not be in school.

November can bring colder weather. Remember to send hats, gloves and coats. Please write your child's name on their winter gear. We ask that students bring snow pants and snow boots when there is snow on the ground. If you need help with winter gear, please stop in the office during Parent Teacher Conferences.

In November, we count our blessings. I am so very thankful for your children. They make us laugh, smile and enjoy every day we come to work. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family!

Mrs. Knopf

Reminders to Parents/Guardians

For the safety of your child, please make sure that they are leaving school grounds after school. There is no after school supervision on the playground, or on school grounds. Together we will strive to keep our kids safe!

If your child is ill, or is going to be gone for a doctor appointment, etc., please call the school office (882-6350) by 8:30 am. If you would like to pick up homework after school hours, please indicate that when you call.

Communication is the key to success - if your address, work place or phone numbers change, please communicate that with the office, or email Administrative Assistant Timberly Lunde, with your information. (timberly.lunde@k12.sd.us)

Thanks for keeping the lines of communication open!



**SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR
NOVEMBER 5TH!**

Monthly Events

NOVEMBER

9th - Parent/Teacher Conferences - 1:00-8:00 pm

10th - Observe Veteran's Day - NO SCHOOL

22nd - Thanksgiving Vacation - NO SCHOOL

23rd - Happy Thanksgiving! - NO SCHOOL

24th - Thanksgiving Vacation - NO SCHOOL



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.



Parents Right to Know

In accordance with Title I Part A, Section 1111 (h)(6), this is to notify you that, as a parent of a student attending a Title I school, you may request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teachers. The WIS will provide a response to the parent's request in a timely manner.

The information provided to parents will include the following:

1. Whether any teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction,
2. Whether any teacher is teaching under an "Authority to Act" status,
3. The baccalaureate degree or major of the degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree, and
4. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Parents may also request information on the level of achievement of their child in each of the state academic assessments. The Watertown School District will give parents timely notice that their child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified. Any parent wishing to obtain information regarding the qualifications of their child's teacher may direct inquiries to the building principal.

Maria Nei
Assistant Director of Special Services
Garfield: 882-6399 Intermediate 882-6355

G.I.F.T. Homework Assistance Program

Wouldn't it be nice not to have to argue with your child about getting their homework done every night? What about having some extra family time each night? Do we have a G.I.F.T. for YOU! What does gift stand for? G.I.F.T. is "Get It Finished Today." The Boys and Girls Club of Watertown through the support of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant is sponsoring this program.

THIS PROGRAM IS FREE WITH A SNACK PROVIDED EACH DAY!

G.I.F.T. will be available to 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade students and will run from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The program is free of charge to all students. Students do not need to attend regularly to sign up. The G.I.F.T. room is a supervised, self-guided environment for students to complete their assignments. Any student who chooses to attend the G.I.F.T. program must have a permission form filled out from their parent/legal guardian. Permission forms are made available in the office at McKinley.

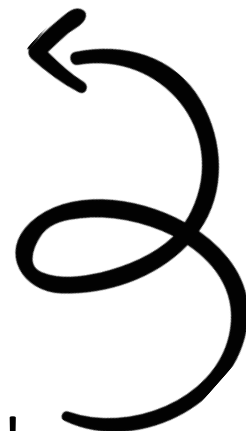
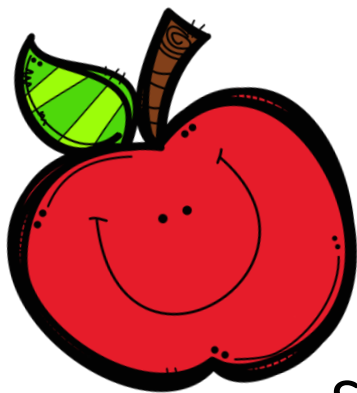


PARENT-TEACHER Conference



Conferences will be held on Thursday,
November 9th between 1:00-8:00pm.

Note: 11-9-22 is also an early dismissal for students (12:20pm), please make arrangements for both things this day.



Scan HERE to sign up!

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, para-professionals, 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

Kelsey Popham
Roosevelt Counselor
882-6360
kelsey.popham@k12.sd.us

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

Bullying Prevention 101

A quick guide for elementary school students



WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is when someone:

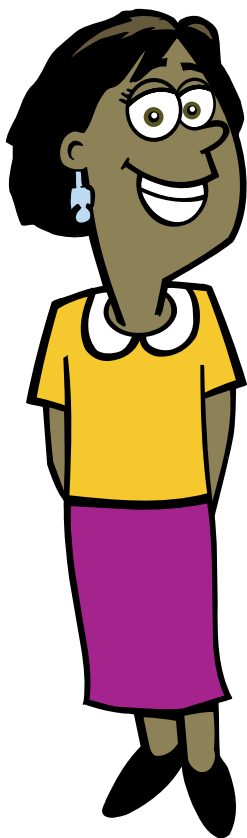
- is hurt by unwanted words or actions,
- usually more than once, and
- has a hard time stopping what is happening to them.

WHERE AND WHEN DOES BULLYING HAPPEN?

Bullying can happen anywhere, anytime. It can occur in your neighborhood, on your way to and from school, at school, and while online.

WHAT IS CYBERBULLYING?

Using **technology**, such as email, texts, social media, online gaming, or pictures to hurt or harm someone else with unwanted, aggressive, and repeated behavior.



WHO IS INVOLVED?

TARGET → Person who is being bullied

STUDENT WHO BULLIES → Person whose actions cause hurt or harm

WITNESS OR BYSTANDER → Person who sees or knows of the behavior

Note: "Person" may mean one individual or a group of people.

**A person can have more than just one role!
The role that any student plays in a bullying situation can change.**

DID YOU KNOW...

...there is not just one kind of person who bullies

It's not about how someone looks; it's about their actions.

...that a disagreement is different than bullying

A disagreement or argument is when both sides express their views. People don't always agree, and can be in "conflict" when they respectfully share their opposing views without putting down the other person.

...that someone you thought was a friend could be bullying you

If a friend is treating you in a way that hurts you and you have asked that friend to stop but they still continue, that is not friendship. That behavior could be bullying.

...there is a big difference between telling and tattling

A lot of kids say that they don't want to tell an adult about bullying because they don't want to be called a tattle-tale. Telling is done to protect yourself or another student from getting hurt. Tattling is done to get someone in trouble.



WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU ARE BEING BULLIED?

If you are being bullied, the first thing you should know is that it's not your fault.

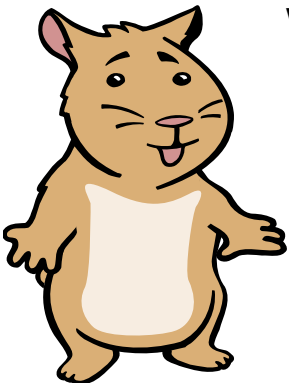
Nope. Not one bit. No one deserves to be bullied... EVER! There's a lot you can do:

- Know that you do not deserve what is happening
- Tell someone: a parent, teacher, or trusted adult
- Develop a plan, with the help of an adult, about how you can respond to the situation
- Decide—with the help of an adult—how other students might help

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE BEING BULLIED?

If you see someone being bullied:

- **Speak Up!** You should tell an adult. Telling is not tattling. It's okay to tell an adult when you see bullying or are being bullied. In fact, it's a really smart thing to do!
- **Reach Out!** Tell the kid who is being bullied that they don't deserve to be treated that way. Nobody does.
- **Be a Friend!** Let others know that you don't accept bullying at your school, and others will be more willing to speak up, too. Ask friends to join you in being a kid against bullying.



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Minnesota office: 8161 Normandale Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55437

Los Angeles office: 80 E. Hillcrest Drive, #203, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

952.838.9000 | 800.537.2237 | Bullying411@PACER.org

PACER.org/Bullying | PACERKidsAgainstBullying.org

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.

Dental Care For Your Kids!

The Delta Dental Mobile Program Is Coming To

Location: **Lake Area Technical College
1201 Arrow Ave, Watertown, SD
Use North doors on 3rd Ave NE**

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



Care 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

Contact: **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






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
			1 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	8 Breakfast: Pancake Bites (15g, 20g) Lunch: Chicken Cubes w/ gravy - Mashed Potatoes – 25g Dinner Roll – 17g	9 *Early Out Breakfast: Cinni Mini (40g), Go-gurt (8g) Lunch: Cheeseburger – 29g Chips – 24g Apple Slices – 19g	10 NO SCHOOL	11
12	13 Breakfast: Muffin (32g), String Cheese Lunch: Pizza – 29g Green Beans – 4g	14 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	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL	24 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		