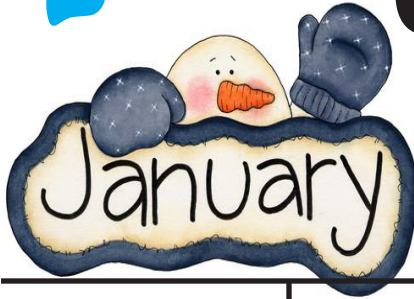


2024

# COMMUNITY NEWS



*Serving Northern Minnesota Communities  
Hill City, Jacobson, and Swatara*



Articles in this  
Newsletter:

School Board  
Minutes



School News



Student News



Hill City  
Community News



Lunch  
Calendars

## YOU'RE INVITED!



*To celebrate 40 years of the Hill City School building! This celebration will take place on February 2nd starting at 3:30 with tours of the building. A free spaghetti dinner for all school and community members will begin at 4:00 in the Community Room. At 5:00 in the big gym, we will take an "All Hornet" photo with everyone that has been a part of the Hill City School, whether that is as a student or as a staff member. The HC/N Storm girls basketball team plays that evening, with JV and JH at 5:45 and Varsity at 7:15.*

*We are working to invite all former students and staff to this event to celebrate the past of Hill City School. Any questions, please reach out to Mr. Johnson.*



Jay Zapzalka, Chairman jzapzalkaisd002.org	Joell Miranda, Clerk jmiranda@isd002.org	Sarah Kingsley, Treasurer sakingsley@isd002.org
Mark Meyer, Vice Chair mmeyer@isd002.org	Ron Saxton rsaxton@isd002.org	Jeremy Nelson jnelson@isd002.org

### Committee Assignments for 2023

#### Committee

MSHSL

Negotiations Committee

Curriculum Committee

Community Education Advisory Council  
Meet and Confer

Staff Development

School and Community Health Team

Recertification Committee

Comparable Worth

Safety/Transportation Committee

Athletic Advisory Committee

Itasca Area Schools Collaborative

Policy Committee



#### Representative

Mark Meyer

Jay Zapzalka and Mark Meyer,  
(Ron Saxton, Alt.)

Ron Saxton (Joell Miranda, Alt.)

Sarah Kingsley (Mark Meyer, Alt.)

Joell Miranda and Jeremy Nelson  
(Ron Saxton, Alt.)

Ron Saxton (Joell Miranda, Alt.)

Sarah Kingsley and Ron Saxton

Jeremy Nelson

Jay Zapzalka, Mark Meyer and Ron Saxton

Mark Meyer and Jay Zapzalka

Jay Zapzalka and Sarah Kingsley  
(Mark Meyer, Alt.)

Mark Meyer

Sarah Kingsley and Ron Saxton



## For School Closings and Emergency Information Broadcasts

### **RADIO STATIONS**

RADIO USA	99.9 FM
KOZY Grand Rapids	1320 AM
	93.1 FM
KMFY Grand Rapids	96.9 FM
WTBX Grand Rapids	93.9 FM
KAXE Grand Rapids	91.7 FM
KBAJ	105.5 FM

### **INSTANT ALERT**

**Infinite Campus' Voice  
Messenger system will  
call parents between  
5:00 - 6:00 a.m. for  
school closings.**

### **TV STATIONS**

WDIO/WIRT  
KDLH  
KBJR  
WCCO

### **Community Newsletter Deadline**

Just a reminder, if you would like an article put in the Community Newsletter, it must be turned in to the school office by the 15th of the month to be put in the following months' newsletter. Newsletters are usually uploaded to the website around the 25th of the month. If you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact Jessica at (218) 697-2394, ext. 101.



the communities we serve. Free and confidential 24 hour Crisis Line:

**Call 218-326-5008 or 1-866-747-5008**

MEDICAL/LEGAL SUPPORT & FOLLOW-UP PEER  
COUNSELING COMMUNITY REFERRALS & EDUCATION

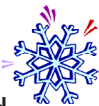
Support Within Reach serves Aitkin county residents. Our mission: To reduce the impact and harm of sexual violence in

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2  
HILL CITY, MINNESOTA

The Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 2, Hill City, Minnesota, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 27, 2023.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call by Clerk showed all of the Board Members present.



1. Approved the Agenda as presented.
2. Approved the following:
  - \*Correction and Approval for Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 23, 2023 and Special meeting of October 30, 2023.
  - \*October 2023 Approved
  - \*Current bills through November 10, 2023
  - \*Investments and wire transfers;
  - \*Reviewed Cash Receipts
3. Recognitions: None
4. No comments from visitors
5. Curriculum Committee: None
6. Policy Committee: None
7. School and Community Health Report: None to report
8. Fitness Center Committee: None
9. Safety Committee: None
10. American Indian Parent Advisory Committee: None
11. Negotiation Committee: HCUE Negotiations Meeting Wednesday November 29 at 6 pm
12. Transportation Report: None
13. Community Education Report: None to Report
14. Early Childhood Report: None to Report
15. Facilities Director Report: Report attached to Official Minutes and made a part thereof.
16. Principal's Report: Report is attached to the Official Minutes and made a part thereof.
17. Superintendent's Report: Report is attached to the Official Minutes and made

a part thereof.

18. Approved the 2023-2025 AFSCME contract.
19. Approved hiring Garrett Dorry as a 1.0 FTE Paraprofessional with a grace period of 60 days to obtain the parapro certification as per the AFSCME contract.
20. Approved Fiscal Year 2023 Committed for Severance,
21. Set Organizational Meeting for January 3, 2023 at 6:00 pm.
22. First reading of Policies.
23. Discussed and Reviewed the remaining Coaching list/Activity Coaches for the 23-24 School Year.
24. Meetings to be attended and Meetings attended.
25. Approved to adjourn at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Joell Miranda, Clerk  
Complete Minutes of the above Board Meetings and all Board Meetings are on file in the administration office and may be viewed at any time during regular business hours.

ElderCircle offers in-person exercise sessions in Hill City and Jacobson! Times and locations below.  
Stay Active & Independent for Life (SAIL) is a low-impact fitness program designed specifically for older adults to build muscle strength, improve balance and increase flexibility to maintain or regain an active lifestyle.  
Sessions are 90 minutes, held twice a week, led by trained volunteers.  
Open to adults of all ages at no cost.



- Hill City Fire Hall
- Mondays & Wednesdays, 9:00 - 10:30 am
- Jacobson Community Center
- Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30 am-12:00 pm

If you are interested in either attending as a participant and/or serving as a volunteer, please contact:

Lori Whitted at [lori@eldercircle.org](mailto:lori@eldercircle.org) or 218-999-9233 x278

City of Hill City Minutes Regular Council Meeting-  
6:00 pm November 14, 2023  
Hill City Community Room

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Lange called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Present; Mayor Dave Lange, Council Members Sean Lathrop, Scott Brenny, Lin Benson, and Tom Semler.

Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

Council Member Benson added under Old Business Council Meetings and Council Member Lathrop added under New Business Winter Stop Signs. Motion made by Brenny to approve the agenda with the above-mentioned additions second by Benson. MPU

Guest Speaker - No guest speakers.

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Lathrop to approve the following consent agenda items; minutes the Regular Council Meeting, Work Session on 10/24/2023, Claim's, EFT's, & Transfer from 10/6-11/8 \$118,795.59, and Reports from Public Works, Fire, Police, and Clerk second by Brenny. MPU  
Maintenance

- Put brake pads and changed the oil on squad car.
  - Decals going on the new truck. Water
  - Readjusted the fluoride pump to get the numbers down.
  - Jennifer from MN Dept. of Health was here to do the 18-month survey. She took some water samples, 1 sample came back positive for bact, she came back and retested and it was negative, so everything is ok. Due to the positive sample, we flushed the hydrants again.
  - Worked with Bolton & Menk on the Water Treatment Plant. Sewer
  - Still raising some manhole covers.
  - Did fall discharge.
  - Hauled to loads of Class 5 on the Road going to the sewer ponds. Park
  - Campground is closed for the winter.
- Airport
- MN DOT Aeronautics came and told us which trees needed to be cut. Working with adjacent property owners on the tree that needs to be removed.
  - Hauled 2 loads of Class 5 on the Airport

Road. Streets

- Nothing to report. Trail
- Started doing some repairs.

Fire

There were 7 Fire and EMS calls for the month. The Department participated in Trunk or Treat. The live burn was cancelled due to MN Pollution Control requirements and cost to the homeowner. There will be a retiree recognition dinner on December 3 at the fire hall.

Police

1. USDA Grant-No local funding this year, maybe can get funding from national excess but doesn't look promising.
2. Squad Car-Ordered \$41,000, refit reusing as much as possible, \$10,300, 6-8 months lead.
3. Erik-Looks like Dec 1st for start date, Chris will fill role as soon as we have official date. Hopefully have no gap in coverage.
4. Jordan-will have some extended PTO as he will be having his baby, we will try and fill as best we can with part timers but there will be some coverage gaps. We have still responded to 99% percent of our calls 177 of 178, so I feel we are good and providing a great service.
5. Trunk or Treat-Went very well, always good to see community.

Traffic Stops- 47 AOA-2 Fire -1 Property Check-125 Motorist Assist - 2 ATL-1 Disturbance- 1 Animal Complaint- 2 Missing Person- 1  
Clerk

Ambulance - 3 Suspicious- 1

Civil Matter- 1 OFP- 1

Total Calls -19 Self-Initiated -172

Crash- 3

- We went live with Muni-Link and it is working great.
- Working with Bolton and Menk on multiple projects.
- Catching up on everything that was put on hold due to training with Muni-Link.
- The Work Comp audit went well.

Public Forum - 3-minute limit

No public spoke.

Reports:

Mayor and Council

Mayor Lange reported that he attended Trunk or Treat, he helped at the office while they had training, attended a meeting on storm water and one on emerald ash boor, and dealt with a zoning



issue on Linden Ave. None of the council had anything to report.

Personnel Committee, Facilities/Equipment Committee, and Park Committee have not met. Land Use Committee

Dealt with a zoning issue on Linden Ave.

Events & Planning Committee

Council Member Lathrop reported that there will be Winter in Bear Park on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Some of the activities will be hayrides, smores, crafts and movies. There will be a meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup> to finalize this event. The next regular meeting will be December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. They will be discussing Winter at the Beach, which will be held the same day as the Lion's Club Fishing contest. Possible activities are ice skating, golf on the ice, sliding and softball.

Old Business

Quotes for a Crane & Tommy Gate for the Maintenance truck a. Renegade \$30,703.00

b. Crysteel \$32,186.00

Casper went over the quotes from Renegade and Crysteel. Renegade is 15 weeks out and Crysteel is 30 weeks out for getting the crane and tommy gate.

Motion made by Lathrop to go with Renegade for \$30,703.00 second by Brenny. MPU Council Meetings- Benson

Council Member Benson addressed the council about going back to one meeting a month. This was discussed at prior meetings, but a decision was never made. There was discussion as to when the meeting should be. There is an ordinance stating that the meeting will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. This ordinance is one that is made every year so the meeting day can change at that time if the council chooses to do so.

Motion made by Benson to go to one meeting a month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday second by Semler. MPU

New Business

Approve Liquor License Renewals for Roadside, Harry's, Knuckleheads, and the Golf Course.

Motion made Lathrop to approve all the 2024 liquor license renewals pending all paperwork has been turned into City Hall second by Brenny. MPU

Approve 2023 Audit Engagement Letter from Clasen & Schiess!

Motion made by Lathrop to approve Clasen &

Schiess! to do the 2023 audit second by Brenny. MPU

Approve 2023 Water/Sewer Assessment List Motion made by Brenny to approve the 2023 Water/Sewer assessment list second by Benson. MPU

Approve MOU - ESST

Earned Sick & Safe Time is a new Minnesota law that will go into effect January 1, 2024. Motion made by Benson to approve the MOU second by Semler. MPU

Quotes for tree removal at the airport

218 Tree Service \$6,000.00

Rob's Bobcat Service \$12,500.00

Motion made by Lathrop to approve the 218 Tree Service to remove the trees at the airport pending the grant approval from MN DOT second by Brenny. MPU

- Winter Stop Signs

Council Member Lathrop asked if the two stop signs were going to be removed again this winter. Casper said he would remove them for the winter. They are located on Cedar St at the intersection of Henrietta Ave and the other is on lone Ave at the intersection of Elm St.

Up Coming Meetings

a. November 28<sup>th</sup>-5:00pm Work Session

-Budget & MN Basic Code chapters 50- 54 Public Works b. November 28<sup>th</sup>-6:00pm Regular Meeting.

LisRaandall, CEDA, would like to have a committee for the electronic sign. There are a lot of things that need to be considered. She thinks a couple from the council and someone from the school should be on the committee. Mayor Lange and Council Member Benson volunteered.

Adjourn

Motion made by Lathrop to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm second by Brenny. MPU

Tami Meyer, Clerk/Treasurer



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City of Hill City Meeting Regular Council Meeting- 6:00 pm November 28, 2023

Hill City Community Room



Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Lange called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Everyone joined in the Pledge of

Allegiance. Council Present; Mayor Dave Lange, Council Members Tom Semler and Scott Brenny. Council Members Sean Lathrop and Lin Benson were absent with notice.

Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

Under new business add 4. Erik's resignation and hiring Chris full time.

Motion made by Brenny to approve the agenda with the above-mentioned additions second by Semler. MPU

Guest Speaker

There were no guest speakers.

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Semler to approve the following consent agenda items; minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting 11/14/2023, Claim's, EFT's, & Transfer from 11/9 - 11/22

\$63,879.39, and the monthly Council Pay-November second by Brenny. MPU

Public Forum- 3-minute limit No Public spoke.

CEDA Report

Hill City communities priorities list for CEDA to focus on:

1. Electronic community sign 
2. Website updates/Facebook/electronic sign updates
3. City newsletter for 12 months
4. Trail connections and updates to community amenities
5. Flight Blight program with updated ordinances, beautification
6. Update comprehensive plan
7. Update/maintain community calendar
8. Wayfind signs throughout the community
9. Municipal laundromat
10. Fish cleaning house

Events Committee: updated events committee contact list, attended meetings, facilitated Winter in Bear Park plans and notes, created and distributed event flyer, press release and Facebook posts.

Grants/Economic Development:

Facilitated follow-up with Trails Inn to Aitkin County Economic Development grant application

- Meetings with Whitetail Inn about signage/grant application and laundromat Electronic Sign
- Visited Sand Lake Community Center electronic sign, took photos
- Scheduled a meeting with school district for discussion around electronic sign needs

- Collecting sample collaboration agreements for electronic sign use

Other

- Attended collaboration meetings with Chambers of Commerce and Visit Grand Rapids
- Attended IEDC Digital Footprint Workshop on electronic marketing.

Engineer Report

Water Treatment Plant Draft IUP/PPL

- In mid-October Public Facilities Authority published their draft Project Priority Lists and Intended Use Plans for project in FY2024.
- The City of Hill City's Water Treatment Plant is currently listed as the second highest New Project Request for FY2024.
- Emerging Contaminant Dollars for manganese is maxed out at \$3,000,000.
- The remainder of the project cost (\$3,500,000) is eligible for low interest loan through PFA and also WIF Grant that is based on affordability of the community.

- We believe that the city sits in a very good position to receive WIF Grant. This grant amount will not be finalized until design plans and specifications are approved by MDH and the project is publicly bid.

- The maximum WIF Grant the City could receive is 80% of the \$3.5 million dollars that are left over after EC dollars are factored in.

Water Treatment Plant Preliminary Engineering Report

- On October 16th Bolton & Menk staff met with three members of the council and city staff to discuss the Water Treatment Plant site layout, equipment, filter layouts, building aesthetics, and stormwater management.

- Bolton & Menk Inc has submitted the preliminary engineering report that compiles all the information gathered during this first preliminary engineering phase of the work.

- This document will be used as a jumping off point for final design when we start to engage subconsultants to design the various aspects of the treatment plant.

- Next steps are final design and construction bidding.

- Proposal for the obstruction clearing at airport

Motion made by Semler to approve the airport obstruction clearing second by Brenny. MPU

- Water Treatment Plant Final Design & Bidding Motion made by Brenny to approve the final design and bidding for the water treatment plant second by Semler. MPU

The city received notice that they got \$5,000 from the League of Minnesota Cities Grant Navigator for the sewer forcemain reroute project. The project will be in the late fall/early winter of 2024 or early Spring of 2025

Old Business There was no old business.

New Business

- 1) Approve Resolution 2023- 17 Vacating portions of Maple Ave, and Cedar Stand a 15' variance on Cedar St.

Motion made by Brenny to approve Resolution 2023 - 17 second by Semler. MPU

- 2) 2024 CEDA Contract The contract is tabled.

- 3) Set a public hearing for P. Gerber vacation in 2 locations



A public hearing is set for December 12th at 5:30pm

- 4) Erik Resignation and hiring Chris fulltime Officer Erik Skahl turned in a resignation letter effective December 4th. He was offered a position with the Aitkin County Sheriffs Office. Motion made by Semler to accept the Officers Skahl's resignation and to hire Officer Chris Kline fulltime effective December 4, 2023 second by Brenny. MPU

Up Coming Meetings/Events

- 1) December 2nd - Winter in Bear Park
- 2) December 12th-6:00pm- Truth in Taxation
- 3) December 12th- Regular Meeting following Truth in Taxation

Adjourn

Motion made by Brenny to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 pm second by Semler. MPU

Tam1 Meyer, Clerk

City of Hill City Work Session Minutes November 28,2023 5:00pm

City Hall Community Room, 125 Lake Ave  
Call to Order

Mayor Lange called the work session to order at 5:05pm. Council Present Mayor Dave Lange Council Tom Semler and Scott Brenny. Council Members Lin Benson and Sean Lathrop were absent with notice.

Budget Review

Clerk Meyer informed the council that she revised

the budget. The original amount budgeted for the CEDA contract was \$35,000 but when we got the contract it was only \$29,975.

Public Safety Director Saxton talked about the police budget and Fire Chief Nelson talked about the Fire budget changes he made.

Truth in Taxation will be at 6:00pm on December 12th with the regular meeting to follow. The final budget will be set at the December 12th meeting.

MN Basic Code Chapters 50 - 54

The MN Basic Code discussion was tabled.

Adjourn

Motion made by Semler to adjourn the work session at 5:45pm second by Brenny. MPU

Dave Lange, Mayor Tami Meyer, Clerk/Treasurer

**REPLAYIT**<sup>®</sup>

PRIVATE PHOTO SUBMISSION

## Get your pictures in the yearbook.

The yearbook staff invites students and parents to submit photos for the yearbook. If you've got great photos of school and community events or you and your friends just having fun, we'd like to see them.

Our photographers can't be everywhere. Help us get as many photos as possible to create a terrific book everyone will want to have.

The last day to submit your photos is:

Submission Deadline

### SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS ONLINE

LOG ON TO: [images.jostens.com](https://images.jostens.com)

Enter Login ID:

Login ID

- Click on "Select My Images."
- Browse to select the photo(s) you wish to upload.
- Enter information about the photo and provide contact information in case the staff needs additional information.
- Click "Upload Chosen Images."

It's that easy! Submit your photos today!



The yearbook staff will review all photos and determine final yearbook content. We cannot guarantee that all submissions will be used.

*Jostens*<sup>®</sup>

# Young Working Families, have you heard?

## 3rd Space is coming in 2024!

The mission of 3rd Space is to fill the gap between school and home for working families with kids 4 years of age through 5th grade.

Practically, what does 3rd Space look like? 3rd Space, located at Hill City Assembly of God Church, will be open Monday through Friday when school is in session. Nor-tran will bus your kid(s) to the church where they will have a snack, homework help, story time, and a daily rotation of fun, engaging activity and learning stations.

There is no cost, but capacity is limited to 30 kids! If you are interested in more information or would like to sign your kid(s) up for 3rd Space, please fill out the 3rd Space Interest form, snap a picture of it, and email it to

CynthiaSchroeder25@gmail.com as soon as possible.

# You Can Make a Difference!

There is so much satisfaction in knowing that you are making a difference in the lives of others.

If you agree and are 16 years and older, then the 3rd Space Volunteer Team might be for you!

We believe that every person has been given strengths, talents, and passion and that they can be used to impact the lives of others in powerful ways. It might be creatively, passing on knowledge, demonstrating compassion, or challenging kids to grow in multiple ways. And while you would be part of a team, how often you serve is customized to fit your schedule.

If you would like to learn more or are interested in being a part of the 3rd Space Volunteer Team, please fill out the 3rd Space Volunteer Interest Form, snap a picture of it, and email it to CynthiaSchroeder25@gmail.com as soon as possible, or if you do not have the means of sending it that way, please call

Cae Jordan at 612.210.1536 or Pastor Lisa at 218.256.1636.

### 3rd Space Family Interest Form\*

Parent/Guardian Name(s)/Phone Number(s)

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Mailing Address

---

Main Email Address

---

Child(ren) Name(s)

Age/Grade

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\*This is just an initial form; there will be a more in-depth form to fill out before the 3rd Space launch day.

## Come and see what 3rd Space is all about!

All interested families (of kids age 4 through 5th grade) are encouraged to attend the 3rd Space Open House on Monday, January 8, from 4-6pm at Hill City Assembly of God, Youth/Children's Building at 102 Lake Avenue. (Please use the awning entrance.)



This will be an opportunity to learn more about this unique after school program and get a feel for what an afternoon at 3rd Space will be like—from the snack and homework areas, the reading nook, and a variety of activity stations to meeting some of the fantastic community volunteer team members!

Thanks to local organizations, there is NO COST to our young working families! But, space is limited to 30 students.

However, you do not have to wait for the Open House to let us know to save a spot for your son or daughter.

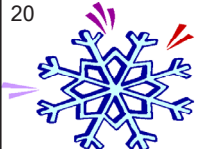

Simply send an email to CynthiaSchroeder25@gmail.com, and a follow-up email will be sent to you!



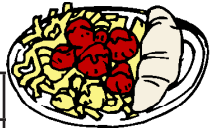



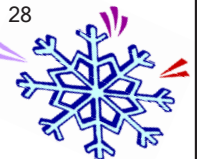
# ISD #2 Breakfast Menu January 2024



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
	1 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	2 Oatmeal, Cereal, Grahams	3 Breakfast Pizza	4 Apple Frudel	5 Cinnamon Roll, Cheese Stick, Yogurt	
<u>Offer-vs-Serve</u> Build a healthy Meal. Select a full or 1/2 serving of	8 Assorted Muffins, Cheese Stick	9 Strawberry Bagel	10 Sausage Gravy Biscuit, OR Cereal, Grahams	11 Oatmeal, Cereal, Grahams	12 Cinnamon Roll, Cheese Stick, Yogurt	13 Fruit, Juice & Milk Served Daily with Breakfast
fruit or veggie & a minimum of 2 other full meal components	15 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	16 Oatmeal, Cereal, Grahams	17 French Toast, Sausage	18 Assorted Muffins or Bagel, Cheese Stick	19 Cinnamon Roll, Cheese Stick, Yogurt	20 
4 meal compo- nents are offered daily. Students must select a	22 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	23 Assorted Muffins or Bagel, Cheese Stick	24 Oatmeal, Cereal, Grahams	25 Cereal Bars	26 Cinnamon Roll, Cheese Stick, Yogurt	27 Menu subject to change at anytime
One of the components must be a fruit or veggie.	29 Assorted Muffin Cheese Stick	30 Oatmeal, Cereal, Grahams	31 Breakfast Pizza			

# ISD #2 Lunch Menu January 2024



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
<u>Offer-vs-Serve</u> Build a healthy Meal. Select a full or 1/2 serving of	1 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	2 Pepperoni Pizza, Corn, Green Beans	3 Hamburger Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Corn, Roll	4 Mini Corn Dogs, Potato Mashers, Carrots	5 Cheese Burger on a Bun, Tater Tots, Green Beans	6 
fruit or veggie & a minimum of 2 other full meal components.	8 French Bread Pizza, Marinara Sauce, Veggies w/ Dip	9 Chicken Veggie Noodle Soup, Ham Sandwich, Crackers	10 Chicken Taco w/ Fixings, Corn, Black Bean Salsa	11 Pulled Pork Sandwich, Mac & Cheese, Broccoli & Carrots	12 Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce, Mixed Veggies, Garlic Bread	13 Fruit & Milk Served Daily with Lunch
5 meal compo- nents are offered daily. Students must select a	15 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	16 Chicken Tenders, Rice, Cali Veggies, Roll	17 Chili, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Veggies & Dip	18 Hot Dog or Brat, Bun, Baked Beans, Fries	19 Turkey Ala King on a Biscuit, Peas & Carrots	20
One of the components must be a fruit or veggie.	22 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	23 Chicken Nuggets, Sweet Potatoes, Broccoli, Roll	24 Beef Taco w/ Fixings, Rice, Corn	25 <b>FARM 2 SCHOOL</b>	26 Sloppy Joes, Jo Jo Potatoes, Mixed Veggies	27
28 	29 Chicken Sandwich, Fries, Green Beans	30 Stuffed Crust Pizza, Salad Bar	31 Tomato Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Veggies w/ Dip			

**This institution is an equal opportunity provider.** For the Full Non-Discrimination statement see:  
<http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/SchSup/FNS/CivilRight/048413>

Independent School District No. 2  
500 Ione Avenue  
Hill City, MN 55748

Hill City, MN 55748  
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ECRWSS

**Local Boxholder**  
**Hill City, MN 55748**

# **Erickson's Update**



Dear Hill City Schools Families and Community,

As we approach the end of the year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements and successes that our school community has accomplished. It has been an eventful December full of growth, learning, and joy.

**Academic Achievements:** Our students have continued to make great strides in their academic journeys. Our elementary students are learning key foundational literacy skills, such as phonemic awareness and phonics. Our middle and high school students are working hard on projects, readings, and assignments.

**Holiday Celebrations:** During the month of December, our school transformed into a joyful hub of holiday spirit. We had a fantastic Winter Concert, where our talented students demonstrated their musical skills and helped spread holiday cheer. Additionally, our classrooms were buzzing with excitement as students engaged in various holiday-themed activities, including crafts, stories, and community service projects.

As we move into the new year, please take note of the following important dates for your reference:

- Reminder to send outside clothing with your students so they stay warm and dry.
- Winter Break: School will be closed from December 21st until January 1st. Enjoy this time with your loved ones and recharge for the upcoming year.
- Coffee with the Ericksons: Our next round of Coffee with the Ericksons is scheduled for Thursday, January 18th at 8:30 AM in the Community Ed Room. This will be an excellent opportunity for us to gather and discuss important topics related to our students. The session will focus on body confidence and the mental health of our students. A special guest from Aitkin County will be present to lead the discussion.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Together, we have created a nurturing environment where your student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. I wish you all a safe and joyful Christmas and New Year.

Warmest regards, Zac Erickson, Hill City Schools Principal