



## Elementary News and Notes

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Last full week until we hit Thanksgiving! Hardly seems possible, as we just were trick-or-treating in what seemed to be a day ago. Regardless, we are there. While this can be a fun time of the year for many, this is also typically the time we see the most behavior challenges with students. Breaks from the routine are difficult for many children, so please be attentive to this as they come home. We will do our best to promote a normal day-to-day function for them at school, but my experience has been about a week before Thanksgiving break and a week or two before the Winter break, we are very likely to see behaviors that we normally do not experience. Please be in tune to those at home and let's communicate as needed to help all students get through this time that is joyful for the majority of people. Please continue to read to stay up to date on our elementary events and news.

**Concerts:** 4th & 5th Grade Choir & Recorder Concert will be held at 2:00pm on Friday, December 6th.

We will follow that up with the 3rd & 4th Grade Concerts on Friday, December 13th at 9:30am and 2:00pm.

Please join us as you are able to, we would love to see you all there.

**Dressing Warm:** The temperature is slowly inching down. Please start sending appropriate clothing for students to be outside for up to 30 minutes. It is colder in the mornings than it is in the afternoons for the most part, but coming prepared is key. Natural Consequences are good to a point, but not when the temperature drops below freezing. Please dress for the weather as it is and as it could be.

If there is anyone struggling to afford winter gear for their kids, please reach out to the school confidentially and we will assist with clothing needs as we are able to, we have some resources.

**Childhood Screening:** Our last date for the year is Friday, January 24th. If you have a child or know of someone who does and needs to be screened, please call the office to sign-up for our last opportunity of the year.

**Open Enrollment:** We are opening with the state for enrollment for next school year. If you have neighbors, friends, or family looking for a school, please don't hesitate to send them our way. We can be reached in the office at 507-545-2632 or email me directly with any questions at [benmidge@deschools.org](mailto:benmidge@deschools.org). Anyone interested can go to our school website to get started. Here is the link for the Open Enrollment form.

<https://assets-rst7.rschoolday.com/rst7files/uploads/sites/737/2023/11/14161754/23.09-25-General-Statewide-Enrollment-Options-Application-for-K-12-and-Early-Childhood-Special-Education-ext-1.pdf>

**Line of Communication:** Please try to resolve issues with the classroom teacher first. If at an impasse, I am more than happy to get involved, but my experience has been that over 90% of issues or perceived issues can be resolved by a conversation with the classroom teacher. Obviously bigger issues, can come to me more immediately.

**Teachers On Call:** If looking to get out of the house a bit and help the school, please consider joining Teachers On Call. This is our way of getting substitute teachers and paraprofessionals into the district. We are often short-handed. If you are interested you can either apply at [www.teachersoncall.com](http://www.teachersoncall.com) or feel free to ask Mr. Midge any questions you may have.

**Snow Days/E-Learning Days:** You likely received a message from Superintendent Frie regarding snow days. We will get messages out to you based on what he and our transportation director Cheryl Gardner determine will happen on Winter Days.

The other end is our E-Learning Days. The first 3 days will be regular snow days. No homework or expectations. However, the next 5 days will be E-learning days from home. At the elementary we recognize not everyone will have access to electronic devices, so last school year we created "Choice Boards". Each grade level has these available for you to complete on these 5 days if we should need them. We did not use these at all last year, so this is still new to us. The main objective is to give a few things

for the students to complete, but to also take attendance with the Choice Board. We want these returned so we can mark your student as being present or absent. If after 3 school days in person we do not receive the board back, your student will be marked absent for that e-learning day. 7 days of unexcused absences or more in a school year will result in reports to the Department of Education needing to be submitted for Habitual Truancy, per state law. So, in short, these are not "Free Days", the Choice Boards need to be completed. Teachers will be sharing with you shortly the Choice Boards.

### **Upcoming Events:**

November 22nd- Skate Day 3rd & 5th Grade

November 25th-26th- Skate Days All

November 27th- No School

November 28th- Thanksgiving, No School

November 29th- No School

**Elementary Calendar:** For the elementary calendar please use this link.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sqv-dCUg\\_sY5FtyKY7GbDSAcBO3MQ96n/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sqv-dCUg_sY5FtyKY7GbDSAcBO3MQ96n/view)

Let's make it a great week! Go Eagles!

Sincerely,

Ben Midge- Elementary Principal