

Northwinds Express

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Notes from the Principal

Greetings Northwinds Families,

It has been wonderful to welcome students back both in person and in a virtual format for the 2020-2021 school year.

We hope that the transition back to school in any format has been a positive experience for your child and your family.

I wanted to introduce a few new staff members we have this year at Northwinds (see below) as well as update you on a few changes in our specialist class offerings for this year. Due to our current situation, enrollment and schedule, the specialist classes offered at Northwinds this year are Music, Physical Education and World Cultures (for 4th grade students only).

New Staff to Northwinds:



Courtney Hinz
Kindergarten Teacher



Kallie Statema
SpEd Teacher



Marc Jacobs
Phy Ed Teacher



Stephanie Klein
SpEd Teacher



Katie Holmes
Speech Teacher



Tracy Conklin
ESP



Carrie LePage
SpEd ESP



Tracy Cotton
SpEd ESP

Northwinds Elementary
1111 - 7th Avenue NW
Buffalo, MN 55313

Phone: 763.682.8800

Attendance:

763.682.8804

Fax: 763.682.8805

**[www.bhmschools.org/
schools/northwinds](http://www.bhmschools.org/schools/northwinds)**



Northwinds Elementary School

Our mission at Northwinds Elementary School is to provide a safe, child-centered learning environment which promotes learning for all students

Important Dates

September:

29th—Hearing & Vision Screening by request only

October:

5th—PTO Meeting 4-5 pm

8th—Emergency TEST Message

14th-16th—NO SCHOOL, Fall Break

22nd—Fundraiser Kick Off (online donations)

29th—Fundraiser ends cash/check Collection Day in classroom

November:

2nd—PTO Meeting 4-5pm

5th, 10th & 12th—Virtual Conferences 3:30-7pm

13th—No school

25th—27th—NO SCHOOL
Thanksgiving Break



Emergency Test Message—October 8

BHM Schools wants to ensure that we are communicating with parents in the most effective way possible. **On Thursday, October 8, 2020, mid-morning, the district will send out a district-wide emergency test message to parents and guardians from our parent notification system.** You should receive a call, email and text messages (whatever information you have on file with your child's school). Especially with the upcoming winter months, we want to be sure parents/guardians don't miss any important messages from the school or the district about cancellations or delays. Remember this is ONLY a TEST and NO action will likely be necessary.

Cafeteria Corner

Hello from Northwinds Nutrition Services staff. We are so happy to have students and staff back in the school. We missed you all!! You may have noticed that breakfasts and lunches are served a little differently. We are all working hard to keep everyone healthy and safe.

Breakfast and Lunch meals are free for all students at all of our schools. The end date for the Free Meals is unknown at this time. The USDA and MDE FNS have told us that the "free meals for students will end on December 31, 2020, or when funding runs out." MDE FNS will notify us when the funding runs out and we will then notify parents/guardians and then switch to regular priced meals.

Ala Carte items can be purchased. At the elementary level, that would include milk to go with a lunch from home or an extra milk. The cost would be \$0.50/carton. Since milk by itself is considered an ala carte item, it does not qualify as free. Please make sure there are sufficient funds in your child's account to cover this cost.

As always, if you have any questions, please give me a call at 763-682-8838

Sue Van Lith

Nutrition Services Manager



Office Post-It

- Please call the office at 763.682.8800 by 1:00 if there are ANY changes to your child's normal end of day transportation. You may let the teacher know as well. Keeping as much of a regular routine schedule for your child at the end of the day is always best.
- Please be sure to call the bus company (Vision Transportation at 763.682.3232) if there are ANY changes to your child's drop off or pick up destination. Please also notify your child's teacher and/or the office.
- If your child will be absent, please call the Attendance Line at 763.682.8804
- When dropping off in the morning or picking your child up after school, please follow the arrows to "snake" through the parking lot and make your drop off or pick up as quickly and safely as you can. The diagram for pick ups and drop offs is attached on pages 10 & 11 of this newsletter.

Substitute ESP's and Teachers Needed to Join Our Team!

The District is looking to hire substitute Teachers, Special Education and Instructional ESP's (paras) for the school year. If you love working with kids, this is the perfect job. You choose when you are available to work and if you want to work at Northwinds and/or other schools in the District. If interested go to the [BHM Website](#) to see qualification requirements and to fill out an application. If you have any questions, feel free to call the Northwinds Office at 763-682-8800.

[PTO News]

Our Annual FALL FUNDRAISER will be happening October 22-29. We will be taking online donations (more info to come). Cash or check donations can be made on the LAST DAY (Oct. 29) in your student's classroom.

Buffalo High School Homecoming Week is October 5-9. Watch for information on some fun dress up days for Northwinds that week!

PTO is planning a Bison/Northwinds Apparel fundraiser. Watch for more information to come on that as well!

If you'd like to be a part of the NES PTO (Parent Teacher Organization), or just want to hear about volunteer opportunities, (not as many currently due to Covid regulations, but hopefully more soon!) please send an email to Northwindspto@gmail.com.

[PTO News, cont'd.]

Simple ways you can help Northwinds this year...

1. Sign up for AMAZON SMILE! Now every time you order from Amazon.com you

can help give back to Northwinds!

The AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your

choice. To start making a difference go to:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/83-0880999>

Or go to :

<https://smile.amazon.com> and assign NORTHWINDS PTO as your charity.

2. Sign up to receive emails from us for future opportunities. Email northwindsPTO@gmail.com and let us know if you would like to be added to the list.

3. Get the Box Tops for Education app and choose Northwinds. Then all you have to do is take a photo of your receipt through the app and submit...that's IT!

4. Like us on Facebook: Northwinds PTO



<http://www.facebook.com/NorthwindsPTO/>



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**Victim/Witness
Assistance Coordinators**
Jenny Parbovich
Arielle Rogers

Paralegal
Michelle Sandquist

Office Manager
Cindy Hohl

August 10, 2020

Dear Parents:

As we approach a new school year, I am once again asking everyone (parents, guardians, schools, teachers, social workers) for their support and assistance in reducing truancy. For the last several years we have all made a concerted effort to reduce truancy and we are continuing to make progress. Your support and assistance in reducing the truancy rate was greatly appreciated. It was truly a team effort.

I believe all children deserve a solid education to prepare them for the challenges of today's world. Likewise, I firmly believe parents want their children to receive the best possible education. Unfortunately, truancy robs many children of their chance to obtain an education. If this letter does not pertain to you, I apologize. However, from my perspective the issue of truancy is important enough that I wanted to share with you some of my thoughts and concerns.

As the Wright County Attorney, I have supported open communication with our schools and have given many talks to various schools regarding the criminal justice system, the opportunities our great country offers, what it takes to be a good citizen and the need for an education. I also believe that to the best of our collective ability our children need to get an education without fearing drugs or violence. That is why I choose to sit on a number of Safe School Committees throughout the County. One of the issues raised in those committees is truancy. I have made the truancy issue a priority within my office. Ten years ago my office participated in creating a truancy program by collaborating with schools, Social Services, Court Services and the Courts to assist families facing truancy issues. The goal of the truancy program is to help families facilitate successful completion of their children's education. The program is a success. Over ¾ of all families referred to the program in the last three years have been able to correct the truancy problem before court involvement.

In the State of Minnesota, all children should attend school until the age of 18 and **must** attend school until the age of 17. Minn. Stat. §120A.22, Subd. 8, **Continuing Truant...** means a child who is under 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for three days if the child is in elementary school or for three or more class periods on three days if the child is in middle school, junior high or

or high school. Minn. Stat. §260A.02, Subd. 3. **Habitual truant**...means a child under the age of 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days if the child is in middle school, junior high or high school, or the above or the child is 17 years old and has not lawfully withdrawn from school. Minn. Stat. §260A.007, Subd. 19. Children who are truant can end up before a judge on a CHIIPS (Children in Need of Protection or Services) Petition. It is the hope that through the truancy program families who have a concern over truancy can be provided help to address the problem before a petition is filed.

There are many reasons why a child does not attend school: illness, family emergency, mental health issues, funeral, religious holiday, bullying at school, parent forgot to wake their child, parent did not know school schedule, child missed the bus and there was no back-up plan for transportation, child overslept, law awareness of the importance of an education, child didn't feel like going to school, child was sleepy, child thinks school is boring, and the parents did not understand their child's school attendance policy. Some of the above reasons are considered lawful excuses but many of the above are considered unlawful excuses.

The following are some tips for improving school attendance:

- Make your children's education a family priority.
- Tell your children how important their education is to them and you.
- Insist that your children attend school and do their homework.
- Understand your children's school attendance policy.
- Make sure your children obey curfew laws and get plenty of sleep at night.
- Buy your children an alarm clock.
- Tell your children that you love them and give them hugs on a regular basis.
- Praise your children's effort that they put forth.
- If possible, help them with their homework if they request.
- Do not enable your children by calling the school to cover illegal absences.
- If your child does not want to attend school, find out why. Talk to your child and listen for an answer. If there is a problem, try to solve it together.
- If your child refuses to go to school, do not be afraid to ask for help. Talk to school staff to find out if your child has a problem and what resources are available to you.
- Advocate for your children in the school system

Regular school attendance is one of the most reliable predictors of academic achievement. Research shows that children who do not attend school do not learn at the same rate as children who do attend school. Also, in law enforcement circles, truancy is widely regarded as a gateway to crime. Research confirms that missing school is a key factor in predicting future delinquency and criminal behavior. Keeping children in school does not only promote educational success, but is also a key crime prevention strategy.

Let us work together to reduce the truancy rate in Wright County. We owe it to our children. I ask for your help. I ask for your support. I thank you for your time and effort.

It is my sincere wish that our children's 2020-2021 school year is safe, productive and enjoyable. Have a great year!

Sincerely,



Tom N. Kelly
County Attorney



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Michelle Sandquist

Office Manager
Cheryl Ford

August 10, 2020

Dear Parents:

In 2007, the Wright County Attorney's Office participated in creating a Truancy Diversion Program by collaborating with Wright County Schools, Social Services, Court Services and the Courts to assist families facing truancy issues. The goal of the Truancy Diversion Program is to help families facilitate successful completion of their children's education. The program has been a success, reducing the amount of truancy cases filed with the Court in Wright County by 75% again this year.

If your child has been identified by his or her school as a truant, you will be asked to participate in the Wright County Truancy Program. This program is designed to present information to parents and children about the effects of truancy on a child's future, what can happen if the child remains truant and services that can be offered to help ensure that your child gets the education he or she deserves.

In the State of Minnesota, all children should attend school until the age of 18 and **must** attend school until the age of 17. Minn. Stat. §120.22, Subd. 8. **Continuing Truant...** means a child who is under 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for three days if the child is in elementary school or for three or more class periods on three days if the child is in middle school, junior high or high school. Minn. Stat. §260A.02, Subd. 3. **Habitual Truant...** means a child under the age of 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days if the child is in middle school, junior high or high school, or the above or the child is 17 years old and has not lawfully withdrawn from school. Minn. Stat. §260C.007, Subd. 19.

It is important to understand that a CHIPS Truancy Petition may be filed before or after the meeting if your child continues to be absent from school without lawful excuse. If you have questions about your child's attendance, please contact your child's school.

Let us work together to reduce the truancy rate in Wright County. We owe it to our children. I ask for your help. I ask for your support. I thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

Tom N. Kelly
Wright County Attorney

Thank you for your understanding!

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Express Drop Off Lane

Dropping Off Students to Enter Building WITHOUT Escort:

- * Lane in front of school is an "EXPRESS DROP OFF LANE ONLY" – do NOT park there. If you must get out of your car, PLEASE PARK IN PARKING LOT.
- * ALWAYS pull as far South (toward the water tower) in the express lane as you can go. Students can enter Main OR South doors between 7:25 – 7:45 am.
- * Make sure your child(ren) exit out of the car on the SIDEWALK side.
- * Take your turn merging with cars that are exiting the parking lot area.
- * Be aware of traffic at all times. Give the buses the right of way.
- * Carefully exit the NES parking lot. Wait for signals from crossing guards as they are watching out for STUDENT SAFETY at all times.

Express Drop Off Only – No Parking

"Escorting Students INTO School"

"Escorting Students INTO School"

"Escorting Students INTO School" Parking Zone

"Escorting Students INTO School"

"Escorting Students Into School" Parking Zone

Pull into Parking Lot – park in this outlined Parking Zone – use crosswalk to reach main entrance – keep close eye on your child(ren) – do NOT drop off students in parking lot and allow them to cross express lane by themselves.

Express Drop Off Students Can

Co Rd 12-N

Co Rd 12-N

- * In the morning all traffic in parking lot is "ONE WAY" going south (towards water tower).
- * PATIENCE, PATIENCE, PATIENCE. For everyone's safety, please be patient and watch for pedestrians.
- * Refrain from using electronic devices while driving in the school zone. If you must use your phone, please pull in the parking lot and PARK.
- * No cars are allowed in the bus area on the South side of the school.
- * Always YIELD to the Crossing Guards - driving around the flags is against the law. We will take down license plate numbers and we will call the police. STUDENT SAFETY IS OUR FIRST PRIORITY!

PLEASE NOTE: Currently, we are NOT allowing parents to escort students to their classrooms. For pick up, you may still park in the "escort" zone of the parking lot and wait for your child on the parking lot side of the cross walk and meet him/her there.

Thank you for your understanding!

