



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

I always enjoy the excitement that surrounds the new year and the endless possibilities that it provides for us all to make changes to our lives if we so choose. I am looking forward to embracing some new challenges and continuing to work on myself as a person, father, husband, and superintendent. I hope that you find a renewed sense of purpose and joy during 2025, and that it is the best year yet for you and your family. We know that this isn't possible without some reflection, planning, and developing some goals for the year, which leads me to the topic I want to cover this month.

Our board worked last month to select an architectural firm that will work with ESTES Construction as part of the Iowa

Construction Advocate Team (ICAT) to develop a facility and maintenance master plan. BRAY Architects was selected from 6 firms that submitted an RFP for the board to review. The process will involve a comprehensive review of our current facilities and all of our mechanical and electrical systems across the district. Over the next six months BRAY, in conjunction with ESTES, will develop a facility master plan that addresses some of the facility needs that were not included in the last bond issue, as well as a 10-year maintenance plan. The maintenance plan will allow the board to make informed decisions as to when we need to replace HVAC systems, roofs, and other mechanical

systems over the next 10 years.

The final draft of the plan is set to be completed and delivered to the board in June. Based on the information in the plan, the board will be able to move forward with budgeting resources to address the identified needs in a timely manner. During the process there will be time for community input and engagement. Be on the lookout in the upcoming months for information being shared about this process. Our hope is that the plan will provide a comprehensive roadmap that will allow us to be good stewards of the district's resources and maintain our facilities for years to come, as we recognize that this is an ongoing process.

I also want to remind you about the opportunities over the next few months to come out and support our students as they compete in winter sports and showcase their talents in our

fine arts departments. You can keep up to date with all that is happening in our district by following our social media platforms or by downloading the Winterset Community School District app.

Facebook Pages:

Winterset Community School District: <https://www.facebook.com/WintersetCSD>

Elementary: <https://www.facebook.com/WintersetElem>

Middle School: <https://www.facebook.com/profile>

High School: <https://www.facebook.com/WintersetHuskies>

Husky Athletics: <https://www.facebook.com/WintersetHuskies>
X (formerly Twitter): <https://twitter.com/WintersetSchool>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wintersethusky/?hl=en>

Thank you all for your continued support of our students and staff. It truly is a great time to be a HUSKY!

Yours in Service,
Justin M. Gross

January Highlights

1/6 - Classes Resume

1/17 - End of Term 2/First Semester - 2 Hour Early Dismissal

1/17 - No Preschool

Don't miss any updates from Winterset!

1. Search **"Winterset School District"** in your phone's app store and download the app
2. Select **"ALLOW"** when prompted on initial download to ensure you receive notifications
3. Open the app, and navigate to the bottom menu then tap **"SETTINGS"**
4. Ensure your settings are turned on and your organization is selected



Giving Back for the Holiday Season- WHS FFA

In December, we embodied the "Living to Serve" part of our motto through various community service projects. Our members diligently worked on initiatives like Ignite the Spirit and creating brownie kits for the Paw Pantry. Zek Manny, Matthew Brakhane, and Nicholas Brakhane planned and applied for Iowa Select's "Ignite the Spirit" program. Thanks to their efforts, the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation awarded the Winterset FFA four cases of pork loins and \$500 to prepare meals for families in need. Additionally, members assembled brownie kits to provide families with a sweet activity to enjoy together. We made twelve kits and donated them to the local food pantry! We are incredibly grateful for these opportunities to give back to the community.

On December 16th, members organized a free festive holiday movie night in the competition gym. We sold popcorn, candy, and hot cocoa while showing the movie "Home Alone." The turnout was fantastic, and we appreciate everyone who attended. This month was filled with fun activities and community service projects for our FFA members to enjoy! Thank you for a wonderful 2024!

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaelynn Faux and Erin Kinney
Winterset FFA Chapter Treasurer and Reporter

All Kindergarten students must be up to date on their preschool shots and have received their 4 year old boosters of Dtap, Polio, MMR and Varicella.

All 7th grade (and above) students must show proof of having received a Tdap (Tetanus/Acellular Pertusis) vaccination booster AND a Meningococcal vaccination on or after 10 years of age, before the first day of school.

All 12th grade students must show proof of receiving 2 DOSES of Meningococcal vaccine; or 1 dose if first dose was received at 16 years of age or older before the first day of school.

All Kindergarten students must have a dental screen performed between the ages of 3 and 6 years old with a dental certificate on file. All 9th grade students must have a current, within the past 12 months, dental certificate on file.

All Kindergarten and 3rd grade students must have a current, within the past 12 months, vision certificate on file.

Lunch Menus

Use the new school app for the most up to date menus each day.

[Elementary Lunch Menu](#)
[Middle School Lunch Menu](#)
[JH/HS Lunch Menu](#)

Free & Reduced-Price Meals Applications

- Log into your Parent Portal
- Click on More, then click on Meals Benefits
- Complete Free & Reduced Form, click Submit

You will receive confirmation in your Parent Portal inbox once the application is processed. Questions: Call the administration office at (515) 462-2718.

SCHOOL FEES

Attention parents: This year's school fees were due October 17th. You may pay them through your **Parent Portal**, at any of the school offices or at the administration office.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/PHONE

When you have a change of address or phone number, please contact the school or the administration office. It is important for the school to have updated information on our students for messages and emergency situations.

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOKS

The Winterset Student/Parent Handbooks are posted **on the district website under the Parent tab**. We have produced a district-wide handbook that aligns to board policies and current state law. The handbook includes addendums for each school, covering building specific expectations. Paper copies are available in each school's office. All students are expected to follow the policies, procedures and expectations. Please take the time to review the handbooks with your child.

2024-25 School Hours

Type of Day	Elem	Middle	Jr. High	HS
Teacher Regular Day	7:30-3:30	7:30-3:30	7:30-3:30	7:30-3:30
Student Regular Day	8:00-3:15	8:00-3:05	8:00-3:05	8:00-3:05
Building Opens for Drop-Off	7:35	7:45	7:45	7:45
Teacher Day on Wednesday	7:30-3:30	7:30-3:30	7:30-3:30	7:30-3:30
Student Day on Wednesday	9:00-3:15	9:00-3:05	9:00-3:05	9:00-3:05
Building Opens on Wednesday	8:35	8:45	8:45	8:45

BUILDING SAFETY MEASURES

In an effort to maintain a safe environment in our schools, all staff in Winterset will be wearing their staff identification badges while on any Winterset School Campus. Additionally, ALL visitors are expected to check into the office of any school building during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) each time they visit the school. Visitors will need their driver's license or state issued identification card

to check in. Our system, Raptor, checks state and national databases for individuals who are on the sex offender list. Once a visitor has been cleared, they will be issued a Visitor Badge. This must be worn at all times while in the building. Our staff will be asking people who do not have a badge to return to the office immediately. While this may be a slight inconvenience, this measure will provide better protection for our students.

NOTIFY SCHOOL OF CHANGES

To make any changes to your personal information, please go to the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Select Demographics, Household Information, Family Member and click Update for any information you wish to update.

Once you make your changes, you will need to click "Send Update". This information will be reviewed by the administration office and will be automatically updated in Infinite Campus once approved.

You can update: address, home phone, cell phone, work phone and emergency contact.

It is very important that this information is up to date and accurate in case of an emergency with your child.

If you need assistance setting up a Parent Portal, please contact the Administration Office at 515-462-2718.

School Fees

Food Service Program:*

Breakfast	\$2.00 per meal
PK-3 Lunch	\$2.75 per meal
4-12 Lunch	\$3.00 per meal
Second Lunch	\$4.75 per meal
Student Guest (all grades)	\$4.75 per meal
Adult Lunch	\$4.75 per meal
Milk 1/2 pint	50¢ each

NOTICE: Students with no available account balance will not be allowed to charge any further meals until a deposit is received.

*Application forms for Free & Reduced meals and waiver of school fees are available online through the Parent Portal.

Textbook & Computer Fees:

Kindergarten - 6th Grade	\$40.00
7th - 12th Grade	\$75.00
Computer-Damage	\$10.00*
Computer-Lost/Stolen	\$1,000.00*

*Subject to additional charges

PAST DUE FEES MUST BE PAID

All past due student fees/lunch accounts must be paid before school starts. Past due fees are posted on **Parent Portal**.

All fees and lunch account deposits can be paid through the Parent Portal, or at the Administration Building or the school buildings. Current fees are due October 15th.

Free & Reduced-Price Meals are Available

Children need healthy meals to learn, and our schools offer healthy meals every school day. Your child(ren) may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Application forms are available on your Parent Portal. If you need assistance filling out the application or setting up the Parent Portal, please contact the Administration Office at 515-462-2718.

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The Winterset Student/Parent Handbooks are posted **on the district website under the Parent tab**. We have produced a district-wide handbook that aligns to board policies and current state law. The handbook includes addendums for each school, covering building specific expectations. Paper copies are available in each school's office. All students are expected to follow the policies, procedures and expectations. Please take the time to review the handbooks with your child.



WHS Guidance Department

Visit the Guidance Webpage at www.winterset.k12.ia.us/Page/1552.



The 25-26 FAFSA will open on December 1, 2024! ICAN is now accepting appointments for AFTER December 1st to help the class of 2025 complete the FAFSA form. These appointments are FREE. Schedule an advising session today for assistance, as appointments fill up quickly. You can schedule online for an in-person or virtual appointment. Visit <https://calendly.com/d/ckmp-vxg-m5v>. Mrs. Erickson and Ms. Slagter are also able to ask questions if you are needing extra assistance.

If you have not set up your StudentAid.gov Account yet, remember you need one account for the student and one for at least one parent. This must be done BEFORE you file for the FAFSA. A college will NOT look at your financial aid eligibility if you have not applied and been accepted. Here is a list of documents and information to bring to your appointment to complete the FAFSA form. [FSA ID and FAFSA Checklists](#)

Winterset High School Local Scholarship is available NOW for senior students to apply! Seniors can fill out one application for all of the scholarships that are on the list. The list of scholarship awards and the Local Scholarship application can be found online on the WHS Guidance page or in the high school office. Applications will be due March 1, 2025. Here is the link to the guidance page where you can find the application under "Senior Central": [WHS Guidance Page](#)

There are more scholarships available on this page as well. It is located under "Senior Central" There are scholarships there that are both local and out of state.

The Lillard-Miller and Eva Rogan Funds were established to help students finance post high school education. The funds are financed through private contributions. Loans are available for up to \$1,000 per year per student and a maximum of \$3,000 per student. No interest is charged, but the loans must be paid back. Applications are available on the guidance webpage and in the guidance office or the administrative office and may be completed anytime now through August.

SIGN UP LINK: <https://jonescreekapparel>.

WHS Express Dance Team presents:

 **MINI HUSKIES** 
DANCE CAMP

REGISTRATION CLOSSES JANUARY 3RD!

Kids will receive shirts the night of their performance!

Cost: \$25

(includes t-shirt, snack and two performance opportunities!)



**Camp Day: Friday, January 10th
3:30-5p.m. @Elementary Gym**

Details: Kids will be split into two groups..

Group 1: Grades K-3rd

Group 2: Grades 4th- 6th

Each group will be paired with Dance Team members to learn fun techniques, games and an exciting Jazz Funk routine that they will get to perform!!

**MINI HUSKIES DANCE CAMP PERFORMANCES:
January 17th:**

Half time @ Boys Varsity Basketball Game (approximately 6:30p.m.)

January 25th:

WHS Express Dance Team Showcase @ 6:00p.m.



JANUARY

ATHLETIC CALENDAR

Check for updates at raccoonriverconference.org
or call the high school at 462-3320.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

DATE	TIME	LEVEL	OPPONENT	SITE
Jan 3	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Boone	Boone
Jan 10	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Carlisle	Winterset
Jan 13	5:00 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	DM Christian	DMC
Jan 14	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Ballard	Winterset
Jan 17	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Gilbert	Winterset
Jan 20	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Van Meter	Van Meter
Jan 21	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	B-F	Winterset
Jan 24	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	ADM	ADM
Jan 28	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	North Polk	Winterset
Jan 31	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Carroll	Carroll
Feb 3	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Harlan	Harlan
Feb 4	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Boone	Winterset
Feb 8	2:00 PM	V-B	Decorah	Wells Fargo
Feb 11	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Carlisle	Carlisle
Feb 14	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Ballard	Ballard

JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL

DATE	TIME	LEVEL	OPPONENT	SITE
Jan 23	4:15 PM	7 A/B/C	North Polk	Winterset MS
		8 A/B/C	North Polk	North Polk MS
Jan 27	4:15 PM	7 A/B/C	ADM	Winterset JH
		8 A/B/C	ADM	ADM HS-South Gym
Jan 30	4:15 PM	7 A/B/C	Bond-F	B-F JH Gym
		8 A/B/C	Bond-F	Winterset JH

HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	SITE
Jan 2	5:30 PM	SE Polk	SEP
Jan 9	5:30 PM	DM East	DM East
Jan 18	5:15 PM	Indianola-Invitational	Ind. WC
Jan 23	5:30 PM	Marshalltown-Meet	Marshalltown

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

DATE	TIME	LEVEL	OPPONENT	SITE
Jan 4	10:00 am	V G	Clarida Tourn	Clarinda
Jan 6	4:30 pm	V G	Knights Tourn	Carroll
Jan 9	5:30 pm	JV/V-G	B-F	Winterset
Jan 11	9:30 am	V -B	Winterset Tourn	Winterset
Jan 16	5:30 pm	JV/V-G/B	Carroll	Carroll
Jan 17	5:00 pm	JV - G/B	Creston Tourn	Creston
Jan 18	9:00 am	V -B	K-C Dual	Carroll
Jan 23	5:30 pm	JV/V- G/B	Winterset Tour	Winterset
Jan 24-25	4, 10	V-B	Corning Tourn	Corning
Jan 31	TBA	V G	Regionals	Central Decatur

ADMISSION PRICES

BUY TICKETS ONLINE ON THE HOMETOWN TICKETING APP IN ADVANCE OF THE GAME

Admission prices to all HS events will be \$8 for everyone, including tournaments.
Junior high events will be \$5 for everyone.

ACTIVITIES TICKETS

The passes that are available are:

1. Student Pass (\$55)
2. Adult Pass (\$100)
3. Family Pass (\$250)

These passes are good for all Junior High and High School regular season events.

To purchase your tickets & year passes for the 24-25 school year go to Hometown Ticketing.com or download the app.

A black poster with white musical notes and a white treble clef staff at the bottom right. The text is centered and reads:

WES
Music Concerts
3rd Grade - 3-24-25
2nd Grade - 3-25-25
1st Grade - 3-31-25
Kindergarten 4-1-25
Make-up date 4-7-25

A poster with a grey background, a silver microphone on the right, and musical notes on the left. The text is centered and reads:

WINTERSET MIDDLE SCHOOL
**MUSIC
EVENTS**
12/17- Band &
Choir concert
2/25 6th Grade
Music Concert
4/24 5th Grade
music concert
5/20 4th Grade
music concert
**ALL CONCERTS ARE AT THE HS AUDITORIUM
@ 7:00PM**



WE ARE HIRING!

APPLY NOW!

- ▶ Lifeguard Certification Reimbursement
- ▶ Lifeguards must be 15 years of age
- ▶ Cashiers can be 14 years old
- ▶ Flexible Hours

Positions:

Pool Manager
Lifeguard
Cashier

Starting Hourly Rate

\$18.50/hr
\$15.00/hr
\$12.50/hr

link: <https://winterset.gov/Jobs.aspx>

Please find a listing of places in Madison County in which families are able to enjoy a little extra food and comfort:

Earlham

Earlham Community Center – Congregate meals – 150 E 1st St, Earlham, IA 50072, (515) 758-2590

Earlham School Food Pantry – Open during school hours 7:45-11:40 am then again from 2:00-3:45 pm M-F, Other times available by request at 515-758-2235 x450

Truro

I-35 School Pantry – By appointment only at 641-765-4901

Winterset

Paw Pantry - 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month Food Pantry from 4:30-6:00 or by appointment at 515-462-3010, located at the SW corner of the Winterset Middle School, 706 School St., Winterset

The Cupboard - 3rd Thursday of the month Food Pantry from 4:00-6:00 p.m. or the following Friday from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at New Bridge Church, 1305 W. Jefferson St., Winterset - **ALSO** - Wednesdays at 5:00 – ANYONE (meal)

United Methodist Church - 1st Monday of the month Food Pantry from 4:30-6:30 or the following Tuesday from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at 309 E. Jefferson St., Winterset - **ALSO** - Wednesdays at 5:30 – ANYONE (meal)

St. Joseph Catholic Church - Every Thursday of the month Food Pantry from 10:00-noon or by appointment at 515-462-1083, located at 1026 N. 8th Ave., Winterset

MATURA/Multi-Purpose Center - Every 3 months, or on an emergency basis - Free meal preparation and canning classes - Sign up for WIC and energy assistance - 462-4704

Family Nutrition Program – ISU Extension and Outreach/Madison County – courses on how to feed your family on a budget - 462-1001

FourSquare Church - Wednesdays 6:00-7:30 3 yrs.-6th grade (meal) & 5:30-7:30 7-12th grade (meal) at 224 E. Court Ave., Winterset

Madison County Elderly Service Meal Site and Transportation - 60 and older, suggested donation of \$3 per meal, and under 60 \$7.39, Mon-Fri starting at 11:45.

St. Paul Lutheran & St. Joseph Catholic Church – community gardens, May-September, located behind 1120 N. 8th Ave., Winterset

PLEASE ENJOY ACCESS TO OUR ONLINE

Coping with Grief at the Holidays

FREE VIRTUAL RESOURCES

Visit the website below, or scan the QR code, to browse:

- Managing Grief on Holidays & Special Days - online course
- Holiday Grief & Remembrance Activities
- Helpful articles, including: Guide to Spending the Holidays Alone, Creating New Holiday Traditions After a Death, 19 Ways to Remember Your Loved Ones During the Holidays
- And more!

www.holidaygriefsupport.com/everystep

EveryStep 
Grief & Loss Services
Home of Amanda the Panda



USED INSTRUMENT DRIVE

Help us expand our
School-Inventory!

This will help expand access
for all students to be able to
participate in beginning band!

**DONATIONS CAN BE BROUGHT
TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL OR
HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE**



Questions? Contact Mr. Whetstone
cwhetstone@winterset.k12.ia.us

Winterset Community School District • Beacon Newsletter • January 2025

2025-2026 Winterset Community School – Preschool Calendar Board Approved (12-9-24)

CALENDAR LEGEND

Start/End
 No School

M	T	W	Th	F	Days	Date	Events
September							
			28	29			*No Preschool on Wednesdays plus the additional days noted
1		3					
		10					
		17				Sept 1	Labor Day (No School)
		24				Sept 2	First Day of Preschool
October							
		1					
		8					
		15					
		22				Oct 24	No Preschool (2 hour early out)
		29					
November							
		5					
		12				Nov 6	No Preschool (Conferences)
		19				Nov 11	No Preschool (Conferences)
		26				Nov 24-28	No Preschool (Fall Break)
December							
		3					
		10					
		17					
		24				Dec 3	Preschool Family Fun Night
		31				Dec 24-Jan 2	No Preschool (Winter Break)
January							
			1	2			
		7					
		14				Jan 5	Classes Resume
		21				Jan 16	No Preschool (Teacher PD Day)
		28					
February							
		4					
		11				Feb 5	No Preschool (Conferences)
		18				Feb 10	No Preschool (Conferences)
		25					
March							
		4					
		11					
		18				March 16-20	No Preschool (Spring Break)
		25				March 27	No Preschool (PD Day)
April							
		1					
		8				April 6	No Preschool (Teacher Comp Day)
		15					
		22					
		29					
May							
				1		May 15	Last Day for Preschool
		6					
		13					

CRISP Winter Wear Program



Is your child in need of a winter coat, boots, snow pants, hat or gloves for the upcoming season? If this will be a hardship for you or your family to provide, please call Community Resources in Service to People (CRISP) at 515-462-9400. CRISP has a good selection of new and gently worn winter wear items. **PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT BEFORE STOPPING IN** so that we may limit the number of people in the

office at one time and better meet your needs. If you are in need of assistance, but are not a current CRISP client, please contact us for information on how to access CRISP services.





NOW HIRING! SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

The Winterset Community School District is in search of substitute teachers interested in supporting students and making a difference. In WCSD, Substitutes can teach for any contracted teacher in any subject in grades PK-12, but are limited to 10 days in a row within any 30- day period in the same assignment.

REQUIREMENTS

STATE OF IOWA

- 21 years of age
- Associate degree or higher (or 60+ semester hours)
- Completion of an approved substitute authorization course (\$100 fee)

WCSD TRAINING

- Mandatory reporter (every 3 years)
- Suicide prevention & postvention training (annually)
- Adverse Childhood Experiences training (annually)
- Chapter 103 (annually)
- Bloodborne pathogens (annually)

SUBSTITUTE AUTHORIZATION COURSE

Heartland AEA provides an online course. You can sign up by scanning the QR code here or visiting <https://tinyurl.com/aeasub>.



After completing the course, apply for substitute authorization on the Iowa Board of Education Examiners website: <https://tinyurl.com/subiowa>.

WHY WCSD?



Flexibility
choose when
you work



\$145
per full
day



Knowing
you **make a**
difference

QUESTIONS?

Contact **Jessica Lawrence**
Winterset Administration Office
(515) 462-2718

2025-2026 Winterset Community School Calendar

Board Approved (12-9-24) – Final Draft

CALENDAR LEGEND

- Start
- No School
- End of Quarter
- 1hr Late Start

Teacher Contract Days

- 178 Student Contact Days
- 2 Conference Comp Days (11/26 & 4/6)
- 4 Pre-Service Days (8/18-8/21)
- 1 Teacher Flex Day (8 Hrs 08/01-08/15 or 06/02)
- 2 Teacher Work Days (08/22 & 06/01)
- 1 PD Day (11/25)
- 1 Innovation Day** (11/03)
- 1 TQ Day** (11/24)

190 Days

**TQ=contract day as long as funded by state

New Teacher Days

- August 4th (1/2 day, 8am-noon)
- August 14-15th
- New teachers work August Flex Day - August 22

Late Start Wednesdays

- School begins 1 hour late every Wednesday for professional development.

*Cancelled school days may be made up at end of school year (June), if the days are needed to meet 1080 hours.

**Innovation and TQ Days are professional development for certified staff.

***Adjustments may be made to end of 2nd, 3rd or 4th quarter/term if more than 2 days are cancelled.

Board Approved (12-9-24) – Final Draft								
			1	2			Aug 21 st	Elem Family Engagement (4:00-8:00)
4	5	6	7	8			Aug 21 st	MS Family Engagement (4:00-8:00)
11	12	13	14	15			Aug 21 st	JH Family Engagement (4:00-8:00)
18	19	20	21	22			Aug 21 st	HS Family Engagement (4:00-8:00)
25	26	27	28	29	31.5	5	Aug 22 nd	Teacher Work Day – Flex**
							Aug 25 th	First Day of School
September								
1	2	3	4	5	56.5	9	Sept 1 st	Labor Day (No School)
8	9	10	11	12	88	14	Sept TBD	Homecoming
15	16	17	18	19	119.5	19	Sept 23 & 25 th	Junior High Conferences (3:30-7:30)
22	23	24	25	26	151	24	Sept 24 th	High School Conferences (3:30-7:30)
29	30				164	26		
October								
		1	2	3	182.5	29		
6	7	8	9	10	214	34	Oct 21 st & 23 rd	Middle School Conferences (3:30-7:30)
13	14	15	16	17	245.5	39	Oct 16 th	Elementary Conferences (3:30-7:30)
20	21	22	23	24	275	44	Oct 24 th	End of 1 st Term (44 days)
27	28	29	30	31	306.5	49		2-hour early dismissal
November								
3	4	5	6	7	331.5	53	Nov 3 rd	Innovation Day (No School)
10	11	12	13	14	363	58	Nov 24 th	TQ Day (No School)
17	18	19	20	21	394.5	63	Nov 25 th	PD Day (No School)
24	25	26	27	28	394.5		Nov 26 th	Teacher Comp Day (No School)
							Nov 27-28 th	Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)
December								
1	2	3	4	5	426	68	Dec 3 rd	High School Conferences (3:30-7:30)
8	9	10	11	12	457.5	73	Dec 23 rd	2-Hour Early Dismissal
15	16	17	18	19	489	78	Dec 24-Jan2	Winter Break (No School)
22	23	24	25	26	500	80		
29	30	31			500			
January								
			1	2	500		Jan 5 th	Classes Resume
5	6	7	8	9	531.5	85		
12	13	14	15	16	561	90	Jan 16 th	End 1 st Semester (90 days)
19	20	21	22	23	592.5	95		2-hour early dismissal
26	27	28	29	30	624	100		
February								
2	3	4	5	6	655.5	105	Feb 18 th	High School Conferences (3:30-7:30)
9	10	11	12	13	687	110		
16	17	18	19	20	718.5	115		
23	24	25	26	27	750	120		
March								
2	3	4	5	6	781.5	125	March 3 rd & 5 th	Junior High Conferences (3:30-7:30)
9	10	11	12	13	813	130	March 12 th	Elementary Conferences (3:30-7:30)
16	17	18	19	20	813		March 16-20 th	Spring Break
23	24	25	26	27	842.5	135	March 26 th	Middle School Conferences (3:30-7:30)
30	31				855.5	137	March 27 th	End of 3 rd Term (44 days)
								2-hour early dismissal
April								
		1	2	3	874	140	April 6 th	Teacher Comp Day (No School)
6	7	8	9	10	899	144	April 9 th	Elementary Conferences (3:30-7:30)
13	14	15	16	17	930.5	149	April 16 th	Middle School Conferences
20	21	22	23	24	962	154	April 29 th	High School Conferences (3:30-7:30)
27	28	29	30		987	158		
May								
				1	993.5	159		
4	5	6	7	8	1025	164	May 21 st	Seniors Last Day
11	12	13	14	15	1056.5	169	May 24 th	Graduation
18	19	20	21	22	1088	174	May 25 th	Memorial Day (No School)
25	26	27	28	29	1111	178	May 29 th	Last Day of School -2-Hour Early Dismissal
								End of 4 th Term/Semester 2 (44/178 days)
June								
1	2	3	4	5			June 1 st	Teacher Workday
							June 2 nd	Teacher Work Day - Flex**
							Total Countable School Hours = 1111 + 16 (PT hours) = 1127	

Date					Events	
Aug	14 th	15 th	18-21 st	Hours	Days	
M	T	W	Th	F		New Teacher Day (8:00am-noon)
						New Teacher Days
						Teacher Pre-Service

Join us for

COFFEE

with the superintendent!

Each month, come out to a local coffee shop and enjoy a cup of coffee while engaging in meaningful conversations about our schools. This monthly event is your chance to connect directly with the superintendent, share your ideas, and get the latest updates on our educational community!

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
September 24, 2024	Montross Pharmacy 120 North 1st Ave.
October 22, 2024	Cabin Coffee 1217 North 6th Ave.
November 26, 2024	The Bakery 119 North John Wayne Dr.
January 28, 2025	Hy Vee 923 North 1st Ave.
February 25, 2025	The Den 104 West Summit St.
March 25, 2025	Montross Pharmacy 120 North 1st Ave.
April 29, 2025	Cabin Coffee 1217 North 6th Ave.

Each event will begin at 7:00 AM

Mark your calendar for these engaging mornings and join us for an opportunity to discuss our schools and community.

We look forward to seeing you there!





**FATHER
DAUGHTER
DANCE**

**\$30 PER COUPLE | \$10 ADDITIONAL
ALL YOUTH THROUGH 6TH GRADE**

FOOD | BEVERAGES | LIVE DJ
FRIDAY, FEB. 7TH 6-8P

WINTERSET
PARKS & RECREATION

The poster features a dark background with vibrant neon outlines of musical instruments like a saxophone, a trumpet, and a guitar. The text is in bold, white and blue fonts. At the bottom, there is a logo for Winterset Parks & Recreation.



FEBRUARY 22ND
MOTHER-SON
NERF
War

WINTERSET ELEMENTARY | 1st-6th Grade

\$20 / PAIR

WINTERSET
PARKS & RECREATION

The poster has a dark, geometric background with glowing blue lines. A circular inset shows a group of children and adults in a gymnasium, some holding Nerf guns. The word 'Huskies' is visible on the wall in the background of the photo. The text is in various colors and fonts, including a red script font for 'War'. A logo for Winterset Parks & Recreation is in the bottom left corner.

Mother Son Dance

"Here We Go Again!"

Who: Any boy ages 4 (ish)-10 (ish) years old and an important lady in his life- \$15 a couple, \$5 for each additional boy

What: A fun, semi-dressy dance with refreshments, a photo booth, mom & son door/contest prizes, and music

When: Friday, March 7, 2025; 7-8:30 PM

Where: Winterset High School Commons Area (cafeteria)

Why: Winterset Student Council is holding the dance to raise money to enroll students in Student Council leadership conferences and camps. These camps and conferences provide students with a strong base of leadership skills to prepare them for tackling future leadership roles.

Please return the below slip & money to the elementary, MS, or high school office. You can also give it to any WHS student council member or sponsor Jessica Gibbons (jgibbons@winterset.k12.ia.us). The mailing address is WHS Student Council – 720 Husky Drive Winterset, IA 50273

Make checks payable to *Winterset Student Council*. We will also take same-day registratio. **Same day registration...\$20.**



Couple Name:

Additional boy:

Enclosed \$15 Registration, \$5 for any additional boys

Total Enclosed:



**SPRING 2025
REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**

**U9 & ABOVE (DOB: 2006-2016)
DEADLINE 2/28**

**U6&U8 (DOB: 2017-2020)
DEADLINE 2/28**

TO REGISTER VISIT:

WWW.WASCSOCCER.NET

Age-by-Age Birthday Party Guide

Planning a birthday party can be both exciting and overwhelming for parents and caregivers. Kids have different interests, needs, and social dynamics at each age. That can make it hard each year to plan a party to celebrate them! In this age-by-age birthday party guide, we're sharing tips, themes, and activities to have a fun event and create lasting memories for everyone — parents and kids! — involved.

Age 3

It's not until they hit three that children begin to really understand parties. Those who are used to group settings from preschool, daycare or playgroups usually love a chance to celebrate.

- Singing and circle activities work better than group games for most threes.
- Threes usually enjoy playing with other children briefly but still have trouble cooperating. Don't expect too much of your guests.
- Keep the party to about 90 minutes to avoid over-stimulating them (and exhausting you).

Age 4

Most fours are full of energy and imagination, which makes them wonderful (but exhausting) party-goers.

- Plan short games and keep things moving because fours may find it hard to wait their turn.
- Include music since most fours like silly songs and nonsense words.
- Treasure and scavenger hunts work well for this age group. Plan lots of active games.
- Plan for a party of about two hours.

Age 5

Five-year-olds know parties are very important and may enjoy the planning even more than the event itself. That's why it's especially important to involve your five-year-old in the entire process. Theme parties work well. Plan for a party of about two hours.

- Fives especially enjoy dramatic play, so have some props on hand for make-believe games (a pizza parlor, a fire station, a bakery, etc).
- While they're ready for organized games, some still have trouble taking turns, so plan accordingly.
- Most fives have the small motor skills necessary to use scissors and string beads so they're now ready for crafts that involve more than simple finger painting.

Ages 6-8

Being with friends becomes more important for 6-8 year olds so parties take on greater meaning. They're old enough to enjoy most organized games and have developed a sense of fairness.

- Children of this age have definite ideas about their parties. Listen to them (within reason!).
- Ages six and up are ready for parties outside the home if desired.
- Children can play games with rules like dominoes, cards, etc.
- Kids this age like secrets and mysteries, so consider games with clues and puzzles.
- Fewer children this age are fussy eaters, so you can take more chances with your menu.
- Parties should not exceed two-and-a-half hours.

When Are Kids Ready for Social Media?

 childmind.org/article/when-are-kids-ready-for-social-media

And how to monitor social media use when kids are starting out

Writer: [Caroline Miller](#)

Clinical Experts: [Dave Anderson, PhD](#) , [Jerry Bubrick, PhD](#) , [Max Stossel](#)



Since kids are so quick to pick up on digital technology, it can be a big job for parents to keep up with them — monitoring what they’re accessing in the way of games, music, videos, photos, and websites. But for many, the biggest challenge is when to let kids have access to social media. And how much access?

Kids crave contact with their friends and peers, and social media has become an important way for them to interact. For children who are isolated, it can be a lifeline. But it also has the potential to become addictive, to get them into trouble, and to harm fragile self-esteem.

Pressure on parents

Kids often start pushing for access to social media in late elementary and early middle school, and parents feel pressured to allow it because they don’t want their children to feel left out. But delaying social media immersion helps insure that they will be more mature about what they post, more able to resist its addictive appeal, and less vulnerable to emotional harm.

Max Stossel, the founder and CEO of [Social Awakening](#), a group that promotes healthy use of social media, has talked to groups of parents, students, and educators about the impact of technology on kids for more than 10 years. Stossel says he always asks parents to raise their hands if they wish they had given their kids access to social media sooner. “I am still waiting for the first parent to tell me they wish they had given it sooner, he says. “And that’s thousands of parents. But many, many say they’re glad they waited.”

Stossel notes that social media algorithms are designed to maximize profits, not to benefit kids. “Eleven-year-old kids are just too young to have these super computers pointed at their brains, often preying on their self-image, or their hormones, to keep their attention.”

Stossel endorses a parent movement called [Wait Until 8th](#) that advocates delaying exposure to social media until kids are in eighth grade. “And eighth grade is the minimum, I would say. Research shows that 10 -to 14-year-old girls are hit hardest by this. I would wait until 15, 16, but that has just seemed less and less realistic for a lot of parents’ lives and kids’ lives.”

Choosing the right time

The best timing for each child depends not just on their age but their maturity, and kids develop at different rates. “I could introduce you to a really mature 13-year-old and a really immature 17-year-old,” notes Jerry Bubrick, PhD, a clinical psychologist at the Child Mind Institute.

When they are ready will depend on things like their ability to read social cues, their impulse control, and their vulnerability to criticism or rejection. If a tween has a particularly hard time disengaging from

continuously stimulating things like video games, they might have trouble resisting the rabbit hole of social media.

Dave Anderson, PhD, a clinical psychologist at the Child Mind Institute, suggests that introducing social media in middle school gives parents the opportunity to supervise their initial exposure as a condition for the privilege of using the app. “If you wait until high school to give permission, they’re not likely to let you monitor their social life. You will never know what their online world looks like. And you will never be able to kind of navigate that with them.”

Monitoring kids on social media

Experts agree that parental oversight is crucial when kids are starting to use social media.

“Initial access should come with a lot of talk beforehand and a parent saying, ‘Here’s what I consider to be acceptable and unacceptable behavior,’” Dr. Anderson explains. “And also ‘I want to go on Instagram with you, look at some of your friends’ accounts, and we’ll talk about what is acceptable or unacceptable about what they’re doing with their accounts.’”

Dr. Bubrick encourages families to go one platform at a time, and monitor what kids are posting. “So parents are really kind of helping their kids learn the do’s and don’ts rather than parents just hoping they’ll figure it out.”

Parental oversight should also pay attention to the balance in the child’s life, Dr. Bubrick adds. “There’s a dedicated time for social media. But it’s only part of your day because you also have to be out face-to-face with friends, and you have to be exercising, and you have to do homework. So really teaching our kids how to have balance with social media is just as important in my point of view as helping them learn what’s appropriate and inappropriate to post.”

Rules for social media access

Families vary about what they want kids to be allowed to do on social media, but parents can make it clear to kids that access is contingent on following rules. Some parents set rules limiting who their kids can interact with, some on what kinds of things they can post.

For many, the cardinal rule is not to post anything they wouldn’t say to a person face-to-face, or want adults in their lives to see. “Tell kids they should act as if their parents are reading almost everything they post,” says Dr. Anderson. “And if that’s not enough of a deterrent to oversharing or acting impulsively, explain that they shouldn’t post anything they wouldn’t be comfortable having their grandparents read.”

Dr Anderson notes that some parents are drawing the line on posting selfies. “A lot of families are making that decision because selfies invite judgment of just you and how you look, and that can be damaging to kids’ self-esteem” he explains. “If you post pictures of you and your friends hanging out by the lake, you get comments like, ‘Wish I was there. Oh my gosh, you guys are looking like you’re having so much fun.’ But if you post a selfie in a bikini, you’re asking followers to decide whether or not they like your clothing or your appearance.”

Likewise, he adds, it’s important to have well-defined consequences for not following the rules, for example, “As long as you’re ok with the no-selfie rule, we can keep Instagram, but if you break it we’ll have to delete the app.”

Dr. Bubrick recommends prompting kids to think through *who* they are sharing with as well as what's appropriate to share. "How are you defining who's a friend online and what are you willing to share with them."

Parental controls

Major social media platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat have rolled out a series of parental control settings as an answer to parents' concerns about their kids' exposure. Not only has TikTok launched a new dashboard where users can now monitor and set limits on their screen time, but they've also added a [Family Pairing](#) setting. Once parents link their account to their child's, they can control all privacy settings for their child's account. Parents can also restrict the types of videos that can come up on their feed, limit screen time, limit or turn off comments and likes, and turn off direct message (this is automatically disabled for kids ages 13 to 15).

The Family Pairing setting is password protected and even if the child manages to disable it, parents will be sent a notification.

While TikTok's settings appear to be the most expansive in their restriction abilities, Instagram and Snapchat have launched similar settings. Instagram has also separately given the option of limiting or completely turning off comments and likes.

Alternatively, if parents aren't comfortable with their child having their own account but still want to give them the freedom to express themselves online, they can create a joint account and engage in the content with them. On TikTok and Instagram, there are several family accounts in which the parents create, control, and appear in the videos or photos alongside their children. Often the comments on these accounts are limited or even shut off to shield children from unwanted scrutiny. There are also more kid-friendly apps such as Funimate and Triller that allows users to create and edit fun videos without the immediate option of sharing their content with an outside audience.

Stossel recommends the parental control tool Bark, which monitors a child's activity on social networks, as well as YouTube, email and text messages. It filters for the signs of harmful content, including sexual material, threats of violence, depression, *suicidal ideation*,

and bullying. Parents get email and text alerts if there is something concerning in the child's online activity. It can also be used to limit screen time and to block individual websites.

Screen Time is another tool that allows you to set time limits on daily screen time, block out periods when screens are not to be used, and includes categories of sites and individual URLs.

Kids who are vulnerable

For kids who are struggling with emotional issues, parents need to be aware that the algorithms in social media apps can read their mood and reinforce it.

"Social media is built to feed you content you're more and more interested in," says Dr. Anderson. "If you have a kid who's depressed, the algorithm will feed them content that aligns with their mood. If you've got a kid who's anxious, the algorithm will feed them the content that aligns with their dominant emotional state. And if you've got a kid who has *ADHD*

and is looking to be distracted, the algorithm will feed them distraction."

While the majority of kids are not necessarily harmed by what they see on social media, it's not always clear to parents if a child is depressed or anxious, so Dr. Anderson recommends careful monitoring and use of guardrails. "The reality is that for kids who are already in a vulnerable mental health population, consuming social media alone is a real risk factor. It can really affect them."

Frequently Asked Questions

Should kids have social media?

Social media is an important way for kids to connect with friends and peers. For children who are isolated, it can be a lifeline. But social media also has the potential to become addictive, to get them into trouble, and to harm fragile self-esteem.

At what age should kids have social media?

Some experts and parental groups recommend waiting until kids are at least in the eighth grade to let them have access to social media, but others note that it really depends on your child's maturity level.

How do you know your child is ready for social media?

When a child is ready for social media depends on things like their ability to read social cues, their impulse control, and their vulnerability to criticism or rejection.

What's the best way for parents to introduce kids to social media?

Parents should introduce kids to social media one platform at a time and monitor what kids are posting. Parents should help kids learn the dos and don'ts rather than just hoping they'll figure it out.

This article was last reviewed or updated on May 15, 2024.

“You Are Wonderful!” How Praise Triggers Better Control in the ADHD Brain

My daughter was starting to hate herself because all day long she was told — by me, her teachers, her friends — that she was constantly messing up. Doing it wrong. Misbehaving. Here are the five ways we used humor and praise to save my daughter. And me.

By [Merriam R. Sarcia Saunders, LMFT](#) [Verified](#) Updated on May 22, 2024

She had just cut a hole in newly folded sheets with her scissors. Or, drawn a mermaid on the wall with crayons. Hit her baby sister for no reason. Or, smashed the snow-globe into a million pieces. “Why did you do that?” I screamed. My little girl, with her beautiful blond ringlets and big green eyes, would look up at me almost as perplexed as I was at her terrible behavior. She had absolutely no good reason, and she’d invariably do it again. All day. She was exhausting.

She was supposed to have been just like me — quiet, obedient, studious. Instead, she was a Tasmanian devil on fire, and I had no idea what to do with her, other than constantly reprimand, or scream, or any number of ways of telling her that she was a disappointment.

When she turned 10 and I finally understood she had attention deficit hyperactivity disorder ([ADHD](#)) — and that her brain was different, that she had little control over some of her actions, and that she lacked a pause button — I also understood that perplexing look she’d given me after she’d done something wrong: She genuinely didn’t know why she couldn’t control herself. And she hated what she’d done. Worse, she was starting to hate herself because all day long she was told — by me, her teachers, her friends — that she was constantly messing up. Doing it wrong. [Misbehaving](#).

No one wakes up each day hoping to disappoint everyone in his or her life. Scheming for ways to get in trouble. Looking for negative attention. I remembered myself at her age — all I wanted was the love and praise of my parents. Their pride was like rocket fuel. And my poor child was getting sorely little of that, no matter where she turned.

It was then I realized: instead of asking her to change, I needed to ask it of myself.

1. **We named it Kevin.** In narrative psychotherapy, people are helped to feel less shame and more in control by “externalizing” the behavior or disorder. It isn’t you; it is something that visits you or happens to you.

So, whenever my daughter’s hyperactivity showed up in the form of bad behavior, we’d say, “Oh, look! It’s Kevin!” (after the bird in the movie, UP, because her noises and silliness were like him). By doing so, it kept her mindful of her actions in a way that wasn’t shaming. And, it kept us smiling with the silly image of the bird, instead of being annoyed by her behavior.

2. **Smother her with love.** Children with ADHD need their unconditional love bucket filled all day, even more than most, because they are constantly questioning their worth. After she'd done something wrong, I'd wrap her in my arms and squeeze, "Oh, dear! I see what you've done, and I love you all the same. You'll get it next time." Feeling and sharing love instead of frustration made me feel better, and made her feel less shame over something she couldn't control. There would be plenty of time later to dissect what went wrong and what she could try differently.

3. **Home is where the mistakes are.** Home should be a safe place to make mistakes, and to know that all will be forgiven. Mistakes are how we learn. If we yell at a child for a mistake that he or she can't control because of an impulsive brain, that child's take-away will be that they are bad. Instead, with humor and love, I'd say, "Oops! Looks like Kevin was in control just then. If we ask Kevin to leave, what could you do differently?" This way, she was less likely to get defensive and lie, and mistakes became a learning opportunity.

4. **I'm laughing with you, not at you.** I was tired. Exhausted really. Keeping up with her antics, energy, disorganization, aggression — it was **parenting** overdrive. It was so easy to get annoyed, to yell, to be frustrated. Then I wondered, instead, if I could laugh. It sounds crazy, I know. But try it.

The next time she did something wrong, I greeted it with laughter. Late for school again, forgot her homework, room a mess, won't go to sleep, won't sit down to eat — really, none of it is the end of the world. Worse, for me and for her, was the gut-wrenching sense that she was bad and a disappointment. Laughter kept me sane.

5. **You are wonderful!** Imagine you're at work, and all day long your boss and co-workers point out all the things you are doing wrong. You go home, and your family does the same thing. Day after day. How would you feel about yourself? And, about them?

If all they ever see are your mistakes, would you give up? Imagine instead, if all day long, they find what you are doing right. And they tell you how wonderful you are. It would feel great. And, it would inspire you to try to be wonderful tomorrow, too. When you praise your child, it creates dopamine — the neurotransmitter his or her brain lacks, which causes the **ADHD symptoms** — and the dopamine helps to better control behavior. So he or she can do more wonderful tomorrow. Win, win!

I spent my daughter's middle school and teen years undoing the harm my earlier frustration and disappointment wreaked on her by slathering her with unconditional love, humor, and praise. She is 21 now, pre-vet in college, and a funny, kind soul who can advocate and care for herself. I like her a lot. And, thankfully, **she likes herself, too.**

Stay Connected with WCSD!



Upgraded Website:

- www.winterset.k12.ia.us
- District homepage updated weekly
- School homepages are updated frequently with information
- Daily calendar of events for schools as well as athletics/activities is located on district homepage

Electronic Backpacks:

- Located on both the district and school homepages - includes fliers, newsletters, important and timely information

Facebook:

- Winterset Community School District: [@wintersetCSD](https://www.facebook.com/wintersetCSD)
- Winterset Huskies for Athletics and Activities updates: [@WintersetHuskies](https://www.facebook.com/WintersetHuskies)
- All buildings now have their own Facebook and Twitter Accounts

Instagram:

- [@Wintersetschools](https://www.instagram.com/Wintersetschools)



Twitter:

- WintersetSchools: [@WintersetSchool](https://twitter.com/WintersetSchool)
- Winterset Huskies for Athletics and Activities updates: [@WintersetHusky](https://twitter.com/WintersetHusky)



Infinite Campus:

- Must have a **portal account** - contact your school's office or the Administration Building to request account

Madisonian:

- Article by Superintendent every other week