Winterset Community School District

BEACON

WINTERSET, IOWA JULY 2026

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you are all enjoying your summer break and have wonderful plans to celebrate the 4th of July with your families. It is hard to believe we are already in July and just a short month away from welcoming our staff back for the 2026–2027 school year. While I am sure school is the last thing on your children's minds right now, autumn will be here before we know it!

As we prepare for the year ahead, I want to share a few important reminders regarding upcoming deadlines and changes. Our team is working hard behind the scenes, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back this fall.

School Registration Deadline: July 15th

Registration for the 2026–2027 school year closes on July 15th. We would greatly appreciate your support in registering your children by this date. Prompt registration allows us to finalize class lists, share them with families as quickly as possible, and ensure we are properly staffed to serve our students.

If you have questions or need assistance with the registration process, please reach out to Jayne Ayala at the administrative office at 515-462-2718 or jayala@winterset.k12.ia.us.

Summer Meals Program Success

Our Summer Meals Program has been a resounding success! Thanks to a district grant we were fortunate to receive, we are distributing approximately 350 to-go meals to families every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM.The program will run through August 6th. I want to extend a massive thank you to the many volunteers whose dedication has made this program possible this summer.

Calendar Changes for 2026–2027

As a parent, I know that coordinating childcare for early-dismissal days takes time. To give you plenty of notice, please keep these two major calendar shifts in mind:

Friday Early Dismissals: We are transitioning to a 90-minute early dismissal every Friday to allow for teacher professional development.

Thanksgiving Week: Students will no longer have the entire week of Thanksgiving off. Instead, school will be in session on Monday and Tuesday of that week. Those two instructional days have been repurposed to provide breaks at the end of our quarters and semesters.

The most up-to-date, downloadable school calendars can always be found on the district website.

8th-Grade Athletic Eligibility Update

Many of you have likely heard about the new legislative changes regarding high school athletic eligibility, which now allows 8th graders to participate in high school sports if local school boards approve. Our Activities Director, Mr. Mulder, recently sent a letter detailing our district's approach. We will present sample policies and procedures to the school board in July for discussion and potential approval. While we understand why some districts

Summer Highlights

May 13 - July 15 - Annual Online Registration is open

Family Engagement Night - Thursday August 20, 4:00 - 8:00 pm (all buildings)

Annual textbooks fees will be assigned after 7/1/26

The 2026-2027 meal benefits application will be available after 7/1/26. A new application is required annually. Watch your email.

use this option to boost participation numbers, our number one priority remains the safety and overall wellbeing of our students. Our goal is to develop a thoughtful process that embraces this legislative change while keeping student wellness front and center.

The Beacon: End of an Era

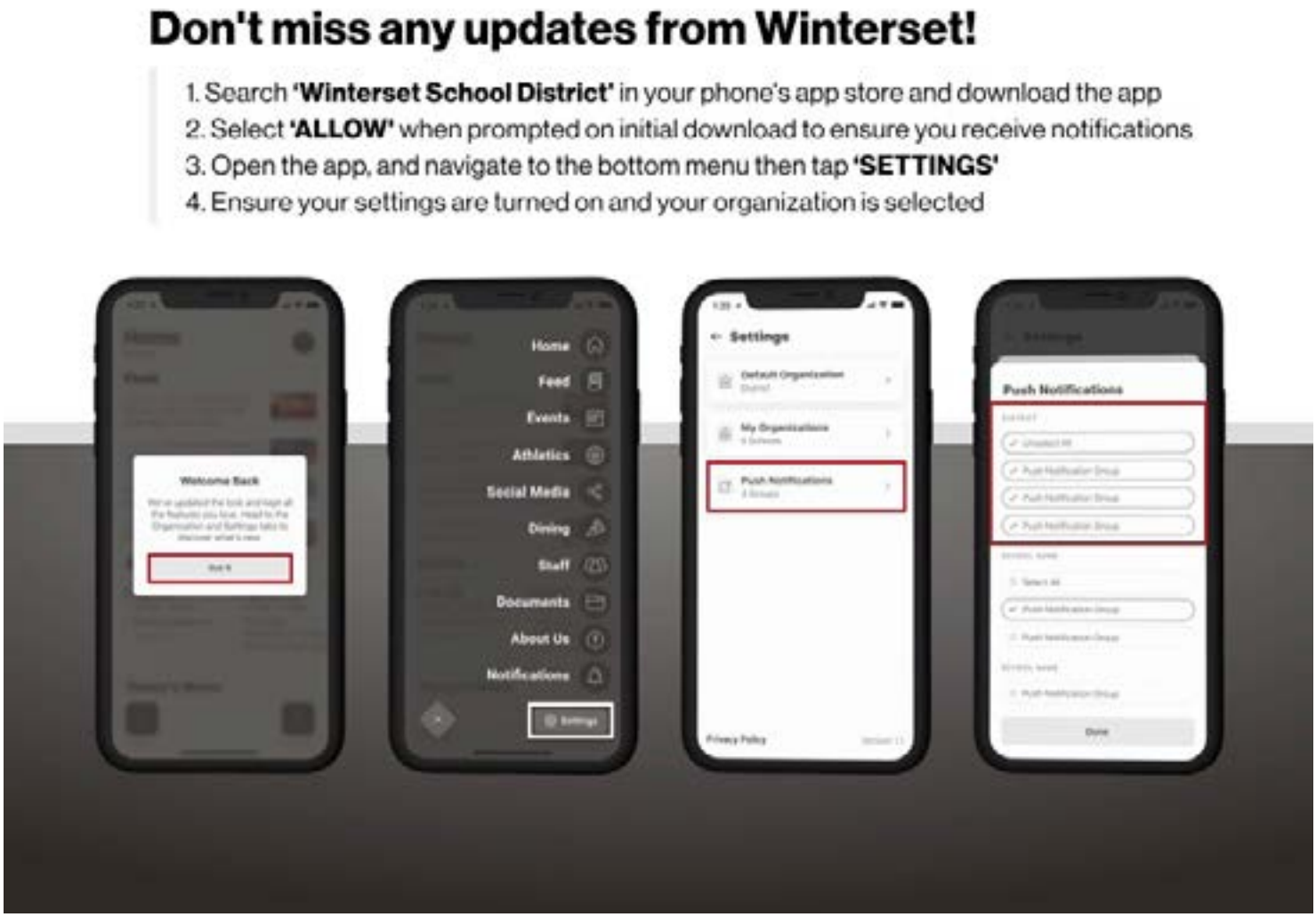
I want to close this month's update by sharing that this will be the final issue of the Beacon in its current format. Beginning in August, we are transitioning to a dynamic, electronic newsletter.

The current format simply doesn't reflect how people consume media today. Our new digital layout will feature more photos, streamlined updates, and clickable links to full articles so you can easily access the information most relevant to your family. We remain fully committed to sharing monthly district updates - just in a fresh, modern format!

Enjoy the 4th of July and the historic 250th Semiquincentennial celebrations this weekend! We look forward to a fantastic school year ahead and all the incredible opportunities it will bring for our students.

Yours in Service,

Justin M. Gross



keep
SUMMER READING
strong with Amira



IMPORTANT INFO:

As we head into summer break, we encourage families to help students maintain–and even grow–their reading skills by using Amira, an online reading tutor from EPS Learning. Amira listens to students read aloud, provides real-time support, and offers personalized practice to build fluency, accuracy, and comprehension.



Students can access Amira through Clever, which is linked on the Learning Links pages for both our elementary and middle school websites.

For best results, we recommend students use Amira 2-3 times per week for about 10 minutes per session. Just a small amount of consistent practice can make a big difference in keeping reading skills sharp over the summer!
Happy reading!



FEATURES:

- immediate feedback for students
- reteaching and remediation
- helps to close school gaps
- provides progress reports to your child's teacher
- available 24/7...choose the days and times that work for you

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.

*or signed medical certificate of exemption or religious exemption.

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

Free & Reduced Price Meal applications for the 2026-27 year will be available after July 1st. Watch your email for information & instructions on how to apply. A new application is required every year.

SCHOOL FEES

Attention parents: This year's school fees will be applied after July 1st. Paper statements have been mailed for students with a remaining balance from previous year. Please log in to your Parent Portal and pay your past due fees at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Jayne at the administration office, 515-462-2718.

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.

IOWA Student Health Screening Requirements



KINDERGARTEN

Dental Screening
- No earlier than age 3 and no later than 4 months after enrollment
- Can be provided by a licensed dentist, dental hygienist, physician, PA, RN or ARNP
- Must use IHHS Certificate of Dental Screening

Vision Screening
- No earlier than 1 year prior and no later than 6 months after enrollment
- Can be done by an ophthalmologist, pediatrician/family physician or any professional licensed to perform this test.
- Submitted electronically through IRIS or hard copy (no required form).

Lead Screening
- At least one Blood Lead test should occur prior to six years of age
- Must use IHHS spreadsheet to submit list of kindergarteners
- Don't need to collect results of blood lead testing
- IHHS matches the school list with their data and inform schools of children who need a blood lead test
- Schools inform parents
- Parents have their children tested

THIRD GRADE

Vision Screening
- No earlier than 1 year prior and no later than 6 months after enrollment

-Can be provided by ophthalmologist or optometrist or pediatrician/family practice physician's office, a free clinic, child care center, local public health department, public or accredited nonpublic school, community-based organization or by an ARNP or PA

- Submitted electronically through IRIS or hard copy (no required form)

NINTH GRADE

Dental Screening
- No earlier than 1 year prior to enrollment and no later than 4 months after enrollment
- Must be provided by licensed dentist or dental hygienist
- Must use IHHS Certificate of Dental Screening

Parents and schools are critical in ensuring students are healthy and ready to learn. In Iowa, there are four health screening programs regulated by the state and implemented by the schools. Immunization, dental, vision and blood lead. Families may choose from immunization, immunization exemption (medical or religious), or provisional records to meet enrollment requirements. For additional information about student health requirements for schools, including exemption information, visit: *https://educate.iowa.gov/pk-12/student-supports/specialized-support/student-health-services/requirements*

School Vaccinations

KINDERGARTEN:

DTaP Vaccine*
Polio Vaccine*
MMR Vaccine*
Hepatitis B Vaccine*
Varicella Vaccine*
COVID-19 Vaccine
Influenza Vaccine (~October)

7TH GRADE:

Tdap Booster Vaccine*
Meningococcal Vaccine* - ***students will not be allowed to attend any classes or activities until completed***
HPV Vaccine
COVID-19 Vaccine
Influenza Vaccine (~October)



12TH GRADE:

Meningococcal Vaccine*
COVID-19 Vaccine
Influenza Vaccine (~October)

**Required or have a valid IDPH Certificate of Immunization Exemption*

Iowa Code, Chapter 139a.8(6) and Iowa Administrative Code, 641-7.7(139) outline the immunization requirement for students attending licensed child care centers and elementary or secondary schools. Students shall have received the required immunizations and submit the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services Certificate of Immunization or have a valid Certificate of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificate of Immunization.



BEST BUDDIES UPDATE- FIELD DAY

April and May have been exciting months full of connection and adventure for Best Buddy members. On April 18, our club took a memorable trip to Can Play in Des Moines, where buddies participated in track and field related games and ate lunch afterwards at Culvers.

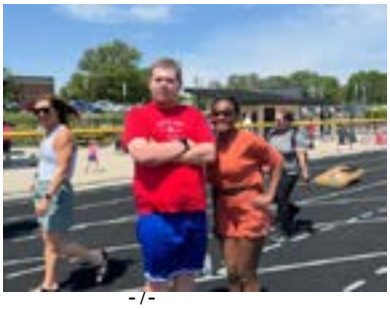
On May 14th, Best Buddies held their annual Field Day at the Winterset High School track. This event included games, tasty snacks, and plenty of time to hang out with friends. It was the perfect way to celebrate friendship and inclusion as we wrapped up a great school year together.

Congratulations to Jenna Peacock, who will be our 2026-2027 chapter president. We also thank Morgan Vaughn for doing a fantastic job this school year as the club president.

If your student is interested in joining Best Buddies, please contact the WHS chapter advisor, Lana McDonald. Have a wonderful summer!

lmcdonald@winterset.k12.ia.us







Madison County Food Resources

Please call the number listed (if available) for each pantry to ensure the dates, times and locations are accurate.

Community Meals

Winterset Senior Citizen Center (Congregate Meals)
1006 N. John Wayne Drive
Winterset, IA 50273
(515) 462-1334

Earlham Community Center (Congregate Meals)
150 E. 1st Street
Earlham, Iowa 50072
(515) 758-2590

United Methodist Church Meal
309 E Jefferson Street
Winterset, Iowa 50273
Wednesdays at 5:30pm.
Open to ANYONE

Food Pantries

Earlham Food Pantry
Earlham Friends Church
115 NE 2nd Street
Earlham, Iowa 50072
(515) 758-0011
1st Wednesday of the month from 5-6p
Earlham Residents

Earlham Mobile Food Pantry
Earlham First United Methodist Church
145 NE Sycamore
Earlham, Iowa 50072
3rd Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7pm

I-35 Backpack Program
(641) 765-4818
rdickinson@roadrunnerpride.com
www.roadrunnerpride.org/page/roadrunner-family-supports

Food sent home with students for the weekend.

I-35 School Pantry
(641) 765-4818
rdickinson@roadrunnerpride.org
www.roadrunnerpride.org/page/roadrunner-family-supports

MATURA/Madison County Outreach
1724 N John Wayne Dr.
Winterset Iowa 50273
(515) 462-4704
(515) 462-5838 (fax)
madisonoutreach@maturaia.org
www.maturacommunityaction.com
Monday-Friday from 9:00am-4:00pm
LIHEAP, Food Pantry, thrift store

The Cupboard at New Bridge Church
1305 W. Jefferson
Winterset, Iowa 50273
(515) 462-1050
Open the 3rd Thursday of every month from 4:00p-6:00p or the following Friday from 9:00-10:00am.
You may visit the Cupboard once a month per household. Please enter through the front door on the east side of the church.

St. Joseph Catholic Church Pantry
1026 N 8th Avenue
Winterset, Iowa 50273
(515) 462-1083
Thursdays from 10am-12p or by appointment

Winterset First United Methodist Church Pantry
309 E Jefferson Street
Winterset, Iowa 50273
(515) 564-0330
1st Monday of the month from 4:30-6:30pm and the 1st Tuesday from 9-11am
Bring bags, laundry baskets, etc. to carry your food.

Winterset Mobile Food Pantry
Winterset First United Methodist Church
309 East Jefferson Street, Winterset
4th Monday of each month from 4:30-6:30 pm

Winterset School Pantry
Winterset PAW Pantry
Winterset Middle School
706 W. School Street
Winterset, Iowa 50273
(515) 462-3010
2nd Thursday of the month from 4:30-6:00pm or by appointment
Park in the front, East parking lot and enter through the doors by the playground.

Available to Madison County residents free of charge! Please bring bags, laundry baskets or boxes to carry your food

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
(515) 282-5800 (Main office)

Call the office to make an appointment

For children 0-5 years old and women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or just had a baby. This program provides nutritional education and checks to families to purchase baby formula, milk, eggs, & other healthy foods

WHS Guidance Department

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

REMINDER: TRANSCRIPTS

FINAL HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS WILL BE SENT TO ALL COLLEGES BY THE END OF JUNE!
Seniors, we do not have access to your DMACC transcripts. If you didn't fill out the yellow DMACC transcript request form by May 29th, you need to go through DMACC ($40) to get
You can follow the instructions with the following link: https://www.dmacc.edu/registrar/transcriptrequests.html

LOCAL LOAN OPPORTUNITIES
Winterset graduates should be aware that our school is privileged to have two well-funded loan programs.
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 administration office and may be completed anytime now through August.
The FAFSA should be filed by July 1! This application helps determine eligibility for Pell Grants and State aid. You may be more qualified than you think! File it today!

SUMMER TIPS FOR STUDENTS

Freshmen
Update your Raise.Me account to earn additional scholarship dollars.
Talk to family members, friends, teachers, counselors, and coaches about how they picked their career and their planning experiences.
Participate in hobbies and activities related to your career interests.
Review your career assessment results and make a list of colleges you're interested in researching based on your results. Visit ICANsucceed.org/colleges.
Don't be afraid to change your career goals as you learn more about yourself and the world of work.
Sophomores
Start a summer reading list. Try reading books that will help increase your vocabulary.
Participate in hobbies and activities that enable you to explore your career interests.
If you're an athlete hoping to play sports in college, plan ahead. Learn about the requirements of college athletics at ICANsucceed.org/collegeathletes.
Talk to your parents about college expenses and create a plan to cover them.
Stay in touch with teachers, school counselors, coaches, and community members. Later you may ask them to write letters of recommendation for scholarship and/or college admission applications.
Juniors
Schedule final campus visits.
Begin completing private scholarship applications.
Save your summer earnings to pay for college.
Prospective student athletes, there are lots of steps to becoming a college athlete. Learn about col-

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

lege athletic requirements at ICANsucceed.org/collegeathletes.
Obtain and review college admission applications.
Consider which teachers, employers or other adults you'll ask to write letters of recommendation.
Seniors
Save money to help with education/training expenses.
Attend orientation sessions to meet people, get familiar with campus and register for classes if you're planning to attend college in the fall.
Prepare a personal budget and review it with your parents.
Thank your family and friends for their support.

Seniors and Parents: Click HERE for resources and information about college planning, financial aid, scholarships, and more! Use this helpful checklist to be prepared for senior year!

PSAT- If you are interested in taking the PSAT in the Fall 2026, please sign up in the office with Ms. Snow.
The test will be held on October 14th, 2026 @ 8am. There is a $18 fee that must be paid prior to testing.

ASVAB- Any student interested in joining the military can take the ASVAB test, which helps determine suitable job roles within the service. In addition, ASVAB serves as a career exploration tool, helping students identify potential career paths that align with their strengths. If you are interested in taking the test, please see Ms. Snow or one of the counselors to sign up.
Test Date: November 4th @ 8am.

ACT
Winterset High School administers the ACT annually. You can sign up for the ACT using this link. Below are the dates for the ACTs along with the registration deadline for the 2026/2027 school year.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: High School Family Engagement is scheduled for August 20th, 4 PM -8 PM. All Freshmen will get a final schedule and their locker assignment with their combination. You will also have an opportunity to find your classrooms.





SPRING ATHLETIC CALENDAR

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

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

DATE	TIME	LEVEL	GAMES	OPPONENT	SITE
Mon, May 18	5:00 pm	JV / V	1	Chariton	Chariton
Tue, May 19	5:00 pm	V DH	2	Creston	Winterset
Wed, May 27	5:00 pm	JV / V	1	Carroll	Winterset
Thu, May 28	5:00 pm	V DH	2	DMN	Winterset
Fri, May 29	5:00 pm	JV / V	1	Van Meter	Van Meter
Mon, June 1	5:00 pm	JV / V	1	Mt. Ayr	Winterset
Wed, June 3	5:00 pm	JV / V	1	Ballard	Ballard
Thur, June 4	5:00 pm	JV / V	1	Knoxville	Winterset
Fri, June 5	3:30 pm	JV / V	1	Lincoln	DM Lincoln
Mon, June 8	5:00 pm	V DH	2	Gilbert	Winterset
Tue, June 9	5:15 pm	JV / V	1	GC	Greene County
Wed, June 10	5:00 pm	JV / V	1	ADM	Winterset
Thur, June 11	5:00 pm	JV / V	1	Carroll	Carroll
Mon, June 15	5:00 pm	V DH	2	Carlisle	Carlisle
Wed, June 17	4:00 pm	V	1	Boone	FOD
Thur, June 18	5:00 pm	JV / V	1	Norwalk	Norwalk
Mon, June 22	5:00 pm	V DH	2	BF	Winterset
Wed, June 24	5:00 pm	JV / V	1	Ballard	Winterset
Thur, June 25	5:00 pm	JV / V	1	ADM	ADM
Mon, June 29	5:00 pm	V DH	2	NP	North Polk
Tue, June 30	5:30 pm	JV / V	1	MSM	Martensdale
Thur, July 2	5:00 pm	JV / V	1	Saydel	Saydel
Fri, July 3	5:30 pm	JV / V	1	Newton	Newton
Mon, July 6	5:00 pm	JV / V	1	Boone	Boone
Tue, July 7	5:00 pm	JV / V	1	Clarke	Clarke
Fri, July 10	TBD	V		Substate	
Mon, July 13	TBD	V		Substate	
Wed, July 15	TBD	V		Substate	
Mon, July 20-24	TBD	V		State	

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

DATE	TIME	LEVEL	OPPONENT	SITE
Tue, May 19	5:30 pm	JV/V	DMC	DMC
Tue, May 26	5:00 pm	JV/V	Valley	Valley
Wed, May 27	6:00 pm	V	Carroll	Winterset
Thu, May 28	5:00 pm	JV/V	Waukee NW	Winterset
Sat, May 30	8:00 am	V	Winterset Tournament	
Tue, June 2	5:00 pm	JV/V	Urbandale	Winterset
Wed, June 3	5:00 pm	JV/V	Ballard	Ballard
Thu, June 4	4:30 pm	JV2/JV1/V	DCG	Winterset
Sat, June 6	TBD	V	Valley Shootout	Valley
Mon, June 8	5:00 pm	V DH	Gilbert	Winterset
Tue, June 9	5:30 pm	JV/V	Clarke	Clarke
Wed, June 10	4:30 pm	JV2/JV1/V	ADM	Winterset
Thur, June 11	6:00 pm	V	Carroll	Carroll
Fri-Sat, Jun 12-13	TBD	V	Creston Tourney	Creston
Mon, June 15	2:30 pm	JV	Carlisle	Carlisle
Mon, June 15	5:00 pm	V DH	Carlisle	Carlisle
Wed, June 17	4:30 pm	JV2/JV1/V	Boone	Winterset
Fri-Sat, Jun 19-20	TBD	V	Ft. Dodge Tourney	Ft. Dodge
Mon, June 22	5:00 pm	V DH	BF	Winterset
Tue, June 23	5:00 pm	JV/V	Dowling	DowlinG
Wed, June 24	5:00 pm	JV/V	Ballard	Winterset
Thur, June 25	4:30 pm	JV2/JV1/V	ADM	ADM
Fri, June 26	5:00 pm	JV/V	Waukee	Winterset
Mon, June 29	5:00 pm	V DH	North Polk	North Polk
Tue, June 30	4:30 pm	JV2/JV1/V	Norwalk	Norwalk
Sat, July 3	V		DCG Tourney	DCG
Mon, July 6	4:30 pm	JV2/JV1/V	Boone	Boone
Thur, July 9	TBD		Regionals	
Sat, July 11	TBD		Regionals	
Tue, July 14	TBD		Regionals	
Mon, July 20-24	TBD		State	Fort Dodge

JUNIOR HIGH BASEBALL & JH SOFTBALL LINK: https://www.gobound.com/ia/schools/winterset#

ADMISSION PRICES
BUY TICKETS ONLINE ON TICKET SPICKET IN ADVANCE OF THE GAME

Admission prices to all Varsity events will be $8 for everyone. Tournaments will be $6 for everyone. Junior high events will be $5 for adults and for students


WINTERSET AREA
SOCCER
CLUB
EXCITING NEWS!
We're thrilled to announce that our club is moving to PlayMetrics for all registration, scheduling, team communication, and club management needs!
This new platform will provide a more streamlined and user-friendly experience for players, parents, coaches, and staff.
WITH PLAYMETRICS, YOU'LL HAVE EASY ACCESS TO:
PLAYER REGISTRATION
TEAM SCHEDULES & CALENDARS
CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS
TEAM COMMUNICATION
PAYMENT MANAGEMENT
MOBILE ACCESS ON THE GO
PlayMetrics
Our goal is to make managing your soccer experience simpler and more efficient, allowing us to focus on what matters most—developing players and enjoying the game!
REGISTRATION WILL OPEN SOON!
FALL KICKOFF AUGUST 30TH!
Mark your calendar and get ready for an exciting season ahead!
Thank you for your continued support as we take this exciting step forward for


WASC
SOCCER
fall kick-off
U6: 1PM
U8: 2PM
U9-U11: 3PM
U12 & UP: 4PM
AUGUST 30TH
PARENTS AND KIDS MEET THE COACH
COLLECT YOUR JERSEY (U6 & U8)
PARENT/PLAYER EXPECTATIONS
TEAM PICTURES
PICK UP WASC APPAREL ORDERS
EQUIPMENT SWAP
AT THE WINTERSET HIGH SCHOOL GYMS
WINTERSET AREA SOCCER CLUB

HUSKY BALL

FREE SKILLS SESSIONS







Open to 3rd - 6th graders

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Join TeamReach - HuskyBall26

WINTERSET YOUTH BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

STARTS JUNE 1ST

WINTERSET YOUTH BOYS BASKETBALL CAMP
SUMMER 2026

The Winterset High School boys basketball coaching staff invites you to participate in our summer basketball camp. We believe this camp is a great opportunity for youth players to have fun while improving their skills. The camp will be held at **Winterset High School**. *The grade levels are the grade your son will be going into during the 2026-2027 school year.*

Four-Day Instructional Camp

This camp will be held July 20th-24th and will be for boys ***going into*** 2nd-8th grade. The goals of our camp are to have fun, learn basketball and life fundamentals, and play a ton of games and competitions, including the *BASKETBALL OLYMPICS*. The camp will be directed by Varsity head coach Josh Henry with assistance from assistant coaches Corey Bradley, Cole Williams, and Lucas O'Rear. There will also be assistance from current and former high school players.

Session 1 9AM-11AM is for boys ***going into 2nd-5th grades***
Session 2 11:30AM-1:30PM is for boys ***going into 6th-8th grades***

COST: $50
MULTIPLE PLAYER DISCOUNTS: If you have multiple kids to sign up, you will be refunded $10 per extra player

REGISTRATION: **https://winterset-husky-hoops.square.site/**
Be sure to register your son before Monday, July 6th to guarantee your son a t-shirt!

If you have any questions about our summer basketball camp, please call coach Josh Henry at (515) 238-3945 or email at jhenry@winterset.k12.ia.us



Parental Permission-please read carefully before Registering

I give my son permission to participate in the Winterset summer basketball camp. I understand that while basketball is generally a safe activity, there is a risk of both minor and serious injuries. I assume full responsibility for the cost of any basketball-related injuries and clear the summer program and its employees of any liability related to the reasonable and practical operation of the camp.

BEST Shooting and Footwork Course

Winterset

The Midwest Leader in Shot and Footwork Fundamentals

Over 30 years of experience and more than 100,000 students!

Basketball's Effective Shot Training (BEST) instructs, evaluates, and develops players at all levels in the shooting fundamentals of basketball. Utilizing individual attention from qualified instructors, we improve and correct each student's shot and footwork through a proven method of stroke break-down and footwork drills. Students learn to train at game-speed to build confidence and mental strength for competition.

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

GIRLS & BOYS GRADES 7-12

APRIL 11, MAY 9 (1:30-2:30 PM) JUNE 5, 26 JULY 10 AND 17 @ 9-10AM

GIRLS & BOYS GRADES 3-6

APRIL 11, MAY 9 (2:30-3:30PM) JUNE 5, 26 JULY 10 AND 17 @ 10-11AM

FEE – $100 WHERE: HS GYM

All students must register online at www.best-basketball.com or give to Coach Henry

Winterset Football 2026 Summer Opportunities

Weights = Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday **Leadership** = June & July Sessions TBD

1 - Wednesday Skills & Drills

June 3 - July 22, 6:30 to 8:00 am for High School athletes (Grades 9 - 12 fall of 2026)

Winterset Junior High Football Field (South of the baseball field & across from the Middle School)

June 3 - July 8, 8:30 to 9:30 am for Middle School & Junior High athletes (Grades 4-8 fall of 2026)

Winterset Junior High Football Field (South of the baseball field & across from the Middle School)

2 - Sunday 7 on 7

June 14 & June 28, ~ 6:00 to 8:00 pm for High School athletes (More information to come)

Martensdale St. Mary's Football Field

3 - Football Offensive Focus Skills Camp -> sign-up forms available

July 14 & July 16, 8:30 – 10 am for Middle School, Junior High & High School athletes

Winterset Junior High Football Field (South of the baseball field & across from the Middle School)

Winterset Husky Football Camp -> sign-up forms available

Aug 4	Husky Football Camp = Aug 4 – Aug 6		
	3:30 – 5:00 pm		Middle School & Junior High athletes
	5:30 – 8:30 pm		High School athletes
Aug 7	7:30 – 10:30 am		High School athletes

Winterset Junior High Football Field (South of the baseball field & across from the Middle School)

Practice

Aug 10	Practice #1	3:30 – 7:30 pm	High School athletes
TBD	Middle School & Junior High athletes (JH is typically the first day of school)		

Play Hard Play Fast Have Fun

2026 Winterset Football Skills Camp

Mission: ALL athletes will be put in a position to be successful by playing hard, playing fast, and having fun. This camp is designed to develop offensive football skills.

Grades: 4th - 12th (Based on Fall 2026)

Dates: Tuesday July 14th & Thursday July 16th

Camp Fee: ***There is no cost.*** Registration is open thru 7/16/26.

Where: Winterset Junior High Football Practice Facility (south of Baseball Field)

Note: Please drop and pick up on School St next to the Middle School. Thank you.

2026 Camp Schedule		
Offensive	**Date**	**Time**
Skills	7/14 Tuesday + 7/16 Thursday	8:30 - 10:00 AM
Possible Extra Work		As Time Allows

Camp Emphasis: Fundamentals and scheme installations
Camp Equipment: T-Shirt, Shorts or Sweats, and Football Cleats (Not Required)

Send Form to: Winterset High School or Bring to the first day of camp.
Contact information: Winterset Football *Winterset High School* 720 Husky Drive Winterset, IA 50273
streamers@winterset.k12.ia.us

This Camp Waiver must be signed and returned with the prior to participation in camp.

In consideration of this application, I intend to be legally bound, hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the Winterset Public Schools, the camp staff, or any other person associated with this camp, for any and all damages which may be sustained and suffered by me in connection with my association with this camp.

Athlete: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____ Cell # _____

Play Hard Play Fast Have Fun

2026 Winterset Husky Football Camp Registration

Mission: Participants will be educated in the Winterset Football philosophy of playing hard, playing fast, and having fun. This camp is for anyone interested in football grades 4 - 12.

Participants will be taught drills and fundamentals that add value to them and will enable our teams at all levels to be in position to be successful. Grades 4-8 will receive instruction from coaches and high school players.

Grades: 4th - 12th (Based on Fall 2026)

Dates: 8/4 - 8/6 for grades 4-8 and 8/4 - 8/7 for grades 9 - 12

Camp Fee: $30 (**Cash or Checks**: Winterset Football). (2nd Athlete ½ Price - 3rd Free)
Includes: Camp T-Shirt, Bracelet, and Watermelon & Registration is open until 8/7/26.

Where: Winterset Junior High Football Practice Field (south of Baseball Field)

Note: Parents: Please drop and pick up on School St next to the Middle School. Thank you.

2025 Camp Schedule		
Dates	**Grades 4-8**	**Grades 9 -12**
Tuesday August 4th - Thursday August 6th	3:30 - 5:00 pm	5:30 - 8:30 pm
Friday August 7th		7:30 - 10:30 am

Camp Emphasis: Learn Winterset Football drills, fundamentals, and philosophies.
Camp Equipment: T-Shirt, shorts and/or sweats, football Cleats (recommended not required)

Send Form to: Winterset High School or Bring to the first day of camp.
Contact information: Winterset Football *Winterset High School* 720 Husky Drive Winterset, IA 50273
streamers@winterset.k12.ia.us

Please complete and return this bottom portion with the prior to participation in camp.

With this registration, I intend to be legally bound, hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the Winterset Public Schools, the camp staff, or any other person associated with this camp, for any and all damages which may be sustained and suffered by me in connection with my association with this camp.

Athlete: _____ Parent/Guardian: _____

Grade: _____ Date: _____ Cell # _____

Play Hard Play Fast Have Fun

Winterset Huskies Youth Speed and Agility Training and Testing

The Winterset Boys and Girls track programs would like to invite **all incoming 3rd-8th grade students** to participate in a summer speed and agility program. This program is designed to help our young athletes improve their overall athletic ability by teaching specific techniques and participating in competitive drills.

Our training sessions will include a warm-up, sprint mechanics, speed/agility drills, and then competition/games. We will focus on **straight line speed, lateral quickness, changing direction, and reacting to environmental cues.**

We will be testing each athlete using our laser timing system in order to track their growth over the course of the summer. We will offer 5 different testing dates, each of which will include the following tests: **40yd Dash, 10yd Dash, Shuttle Drill, and 3 Cone Drill.** Each of these drills are directly correlated to the skills we will be working on throughout the summer. Results will be immediately available for the athletes to see and shared electronically with parents within a few days.

Location: Winterset High School Competition Gym

Training Dates: May 28, 31 | June 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 28 | July 7, 9, 14, 16
Testing Dates: May 26 | June 6, 20 | July 2, 19

Time: 5:00pm to 6:00pm for **incoming** 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students
6:00pm to 7:00pm for **incoming** 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students

What to bring: Please make sure your athlete comes prepared with a **pair of running shoes** (NO TRACK SPIKES or SANDALS), **workout clothing** (shorts and t-shirt recommended) and **a water bottle.**

Cost: Starting at $40 per athlete depending on number of sessions. Sign up before May 10th to receive a 20% discount on your registration if you purchase 10 or more sessions.

To register, please visit https://tinyurl.com/wintersetspeed

If you have any questions about the sessions, please contact Head Coach Corey Bradley at (515) 493-8636 or cbradley@winterset.k12.ia.us.

Preschool Calendar 2026-27

Approved by the WCSD board 12/8/2025

AUGUST

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

SEPTEMBER

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

OCTOBER

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

NOVEMBER

M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

DECEMBER

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

JANUARY

M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

FEBRUARY

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

MARCH

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

APRIL

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

MAY

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

Color Key
First Day/Classes Resume
No School
Parent Teacher Conferences

September	8	First Day of Preschool
	25	Homecoming
October	26	No School - TQ Day (PK-12)
November	5	No Preschool - Conferences
	12	No Preschool - Conferences
	25	No School - Teacher Comp Day (PK-12)
	26-27	No School - Thanksgiving Break (PK-12)
December	4	Preschool Family Fun Night
	22	No Preschool
	23-31	No School - Winter Break
January	1	No School - Winter Break
	4	Classes Resume
	16	No School - Teacher Work Day
February	15	No School - Teacher PD Day
March	4	No Preschool - Conferences
	11	No Preschool - Conferences
	16-19	No School - Spring Break
	29	No School - Teacher Comp Day
April		
May	13	Last day of Preschool

Important Information	
No Preschool on Fridays	
AM Session:	8:00 am - 11:30 am
PM Session:	11:55 am - 2:55 pm

Academic Calendar 2026-27

Approved by the WCSD Board of Education on 12/8/2025

AUGUST

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

SEPTEMBER

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

OCTOBER

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

NOVEMBER

M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

DECEMBER

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

JANUARY

M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

FEBRUARY

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

MARCH

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

APRIL

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

MAY

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

August	20	Family Engagement Night
	24	First Day of School
September	7	No School - Labor Day
	25	Homecoming
	30	High School Parent Teacher Conferences
October	15 & 22	Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences
	20 & 22	Middle School Parent Teacher Conferences
	23	End of Term 1 (44 Days)
	26	No School - TQ Day
November	3 & 5	Junior High Parent Teacher Conferences
	25	No School - Teacher Comp Day
	26-27	No School - Thanksgiving Break
	30	Classes Resume
December	2	High School Parent Teacher Conferences
	22	2-Hour Early Dismissal
	23- 31	No School - Winter Break
January	1	No School - Winter Break
	4	Classes Resume
	15	End of Term 2/Semester 1 (40 Days)
	19	No School - Teacher Work Day
February	10	High School Parent Teacher Conferences
	16	No School - Teacher PD Day
March	2 & 4	Junior High Parent Teacher Conferences
	11	Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences
	15-19	No School - Spring Break
	22	Classes Resume
	25	Middle School Parent Teacher Conferences
	26	End of Term 3 (43 Days)
	29	No School - Teacher Comp Day
April	21	High School Parent Teacher Conferences
	22	Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences
	29	Middle School Parent Teacher Conferences
May	19	Seniors' Last Day
	23	Graduation
	27	End of Term 4/Semester 2 (43 Days)
	28	Teacher Work Day
June	1	Teacher Flex Day

Important Academic Dates	
Date	Event
8/24/2026	First Day of 2026-2027 School Year
10/23/2026	End of Term 1
1/15/2027	End of Term 2/Semester 1
3/26/2027	End of Term 3
5/19/2027	Seniors' Last Day
5/23/2027	Graduation Commencement
5/27/2027	Last Day of 2026-2027 School Year
5/27/2027	End of Term 4/Semester 2

Regular Start/Dismissal Times	
Elementary	8:00 - 3:00
Middle School	8:00 - 3:05
Junior High	8:00 - 3:05
High School	8:00 - 3:00

Early Out Start/Dismissal	
Elementary	8:00 - 1:30
Middle School	8:00 - 1:35
Junior High	8:00 - 1:35
High School	8:00 - 1:30

Color Key
First Day of School/Classes Resume
No School
90-Minute Early Dismissal
2-Hour Early Dismissal
End of Term
Parent Teacher Conferences

2026-2027 Elementary Supplies List

Winterset Community School District

Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten

- (2) large eraser
- (24) #2 pencils (yellow-no decorated pencils)
- (1) scissors: blunt tip (Fiskars recommended)
- (12) glue sticks
- (2) Expo Dry Erase markers (chisel tip)
- (2) 24 ct. box crayons (Crayola recommended)
- (4) 8 ct. box washable markers (Crayola recommended)
- (1) 8-12 ct. box colored pencils (Crayola recommended)
- (1) backpack

1st Grade

- (1) large eraser
- (10) #2 Pencils (yellow-no decorated)
- (1) scissors: 5" pointed (Fiskars recommended)
- (4) glue sticks
- (1) 12 ct. box Expo markers (chisel tip)
- (2) 24 ct. box crayons (Crayola recommended)
- (2) 8 ct. box washable markers (Crayola recommended)
- (2) yellow highlighters
- (1) wide rule spiral notebook
- (1) backpack

2nd Grade

- (3) plastic folders w/ pockets & center prongs (1 red, 1 purple, 1 green)
- (1) large eraser
- (24) #2 pencils (yellow-no decorated or mechanical)
- (1) 5"X 8" pencil box
- (1) scissors: 5" pointed (Fiskars recommended)
- (1) 24 ct. box crayons (Crayola recommended)
- (2) glue sticks
- (1) 8 ct. box washable markers (Crayola recommended)
- (2) highlighters
- (3) wide rule spiral notebooks (1 red, 1 purple, 1 green)
- (1) pair earbuds (inexpensive)
- (1) backpack

3rd Grade

- (2) plastic folders w/ bottom pockets (no center prongs)
- (3) large erasers
- (24) #2 pencils (yellow-no decorated or mechanical)
- (5) thin highlighters (one each: pink, blue, yellow, green, and lavender)
- (1) zipper pencil pouch (no pencil boxes)
- (1) pair of scissors
- (8) glue sticks
- (1) 8-12 ct. colored pencils (Crayola preferred)
- (1) 8-12 ct. washable markers (Crayola preferred)
- (1) dry eraser
- (2) wide rule spiral notebooks
- (1) package wide rule notebook paper
- (1) backpack

Please label your student's supplies and replace as needed. Please do not purchase additional supplies as we have limited storage space - extra supplies will be sent home.

Donations of the following are appreciated in all grades: large boxes of Kleenex, Clorox wipes, and sandwich/gallon Ziploc bags.

If you need assistance acquiring school supplies, please contact CRSP at 515-462-9400 or CRSP@familyresourcelink.org

2026-2027 Junior High/High School Supplies List

Winterset Community School District

7th Grade

- (1) 1.5" 3-ring binder
- (1) 2" 3-ring binder (for science)
- (1) 3-ring pencil pouch
- (24) #2 pencils
- (4-8) pocket folders (3 hole punched)
- (2) highlighters (2 colors)
- (1) 8 pack Expo Low Odor Dry Erase markers
- (1) packages wide rule notebook paper
- (1) wide rule spiral notebook (for math)
- (1) scientific calculator (TI-30XIIS preferred)
- (1) earbuds (wired)
- Shoes for PE
- (1) backpack

8th Grade

- (1) 1.5" 3-ring binder
- (1) 2" 3-ring binder (for science)
- (1) 3-ring pencil pouch
- (24) #2 pencils
- (4-8) folders (3 hole punched)
- (4) ball point pens (any color)
- (2) highlighters (different colors)
- (1) 8 pack Expo Low Odor Dry Erase markers
- (1) package wide rule notebook paper
- (1) 5 subject wide rule spiral notebook
- (1) large eraser
- (2) packs 3x5 index cards
- (1) scientific calculator (TI-30XIIS preferred)
- (1) earbuds (wired)
- Shoes for PE
- (1) backpack

9th - 12th Grade

- (1) 1.5" 3-ring binder
- (1) 1" 3-ring binder (9th grade Earth & Physical Science only)
- (1) package dividers (for 3 ring binder – 9th grade Earth and Physical Science only)
- (1) 1" 3-ring binder (HS Agriculture courses only)
- (1) 24 ct. colored pencils (HS Agriculture courses only)
- (1) 2" 3-ring binder (11th and 12th grade Financial Literacy course)
- (12) #2 pencils
- (3) ballpoint pens (2 black or blue, 1 red)
- (2) highlighters (different colors)
- (1) package college rule notebook paper
- (4) college rule spiral notebooks
- (1) pack 3x3 sticky notes
- (1) scientific calculator (TI-30XIIS preferred)
- (1) earbuds
- (1) backpack

If you need assistance acquiring school supplies, please contact CRISP at 515 462 9400 or CRISP@familyresourcelink.org.

2026-2027 Middle School Supplies List

Winterset Community School District

4th Grade

- (1) 2" 3-ring binder or zipper binder
- (1) 3 ring pencil pouch
- (24) #2 pencils
- (1) large eraser
- (4) pocket folders (plastic with no center prongs)
- (2) thin highlighters
- (2) red ball point pens
- (1) fine point black Sharpie marker
- (1) 12 ct. colored pencils
- (1) 10 ct. primary color markers
- (1) 2 pack Expo Low Odor Dry Erase markers
- (1) package wide rule notebook paper
- (1) pack 3x3 sticky notes
- (4) glue sticks
- (1) 6-7" pointed scissors
- (1) earbuds (inexpensive)
- (1) backpack (big enough to hold binder)

5th Grade

- (1) 3" 3-ring binder
- (1) 3 ring pencil pouch
- (24) #2 pencils
- (1) large eraser
- (4) pocket folders (4 different colors/designs)
- (5) thin highlighters
- (1) 24 ct. colored pencils
- (1) box of markers
- (1) 12 pack Expo Low Odor Dry Erase markers (black)
- (2) packages wide rule notebook paper
- (2) wide rule spiral notebook
- (1) pack 3x3 sticky notes
- (1) package 100 ct. multi-color index cards (pink, yellow, blue, green, and lavender)
- (2) glue sticks
- (1) 5" pointed scissors
- (1) earbuds (inexpensive)
- (1) backpack

6th Grade

- (1) 3" 3-ring binder
- (1) 3 ring pencil pouch
- (4) pocket folders (3 hole punched, no center prongs)
- (24) #2 pencils
- (5) thin highlighters (one each: pink, blue, yellow, green, and lavender)
- (1) package red pens
- (1) box of markers
- (2) 12 pack Expo Low Odor Dry Erase markers (black)
- (1) package wide rule notebook paper
- (1) 3 subject wide rule spiral notebook
- (2) pack 3x3 sticky notes
- (1) large eraser
- (1) 5" pointed scissors
- (1) scientific calculator
- (1) earbuds (inexpensive)
- (1) backpack

Please label your student's supplies and replace as needed.

Donations of Kleenex, Clorox wipes, Expo Low Odor Dry Erase markers, inexpensive earbuds, #2 pencils, and Ziploc bags are always appreciated.

If you need assistance acquiring school supplies, please contact CRISP at 515-462-9400 or CRISP@familyresourcelink.org.

Winterset Paw Pantry



Summer Dates!

June 11th

July 9th

August 13th

Paw Pantry is open from 4:30-6:00.
Please park in the front parking lot of the middle school and enter through the doors near the playground.

LIVE WILD

MADISON COUNTY CONSERVVATION CENTER
PAMMEL PARK



2026 SPEAKER SERIES

Madison County Conservation Center, Pammel Park

JAN 6: Wilderness, Tom Moss

FEB 3: Sasquatch, Mike Havlik

MARCH 3: Honeybees, Andrew Joseph

APRIL 7: Wildlife Rescue, Jenni Boonjakuakul

MAY 5: Taxidermy, Remington Hutton

JUNE 2: Rattlesnakes, Paul Frese

JULY 7: Barn Owls, Tanner Donovan
Jessie Lowry

AUG 4: Dog Training, Angela Tague

SEPT: 1 Lead-Free Hunt, Adam Janke

OCT 6: Madison CO Hunt, Catherine Cummings

NOV 3: Basket Weaving, Amy Wiemke

DEC 1: Northern Lights, Jess Lancil

Cultivating Connections

M·C·F·E·E

FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 6-7 PM

FREE WILL DONATION

Proceeds will be equally shared between Madison County Foundation for Environmental Education and an organization of the speaker's choice.

MADISON COUNTY CONSERVATION

WWW.MADISONCOUNTYPARKS.COM

CREEKS, CRITTERS, & CAMPFIRES: OUTDOOR SKILLS MEETS CLASSIC CAMP FUN

JUNE 23-24 | 9AM-9AM

Ages: 8-13
$55/child

Get ready for an unforgettable **overnight** adventure where the wild meets the wonderful! Creeks, Critters, & Campfires is the ultimate summer destination for young explorers. We combine the rugged excitement of wilderness survival with the timeless traditions of a classic summer sleepaway in the Pammel Park Yurts.



TOAD-ALLY RAD REPTILES

JUNE 30-JULY 1 | 9-11:30AM

Ages: 5-7
$25/child

Get ready for a 'toad-ally' awesome adventure! At Toad-ally Rad Reptiles, kids explore the hidden world of reptiles and amphibians through hands-on discovery. Campers will master Iowa snake identification, decode mysterious animal behaviors, and get up close with the creatures that make our wetlands and woodlands home.



SUSTAINABLE IOWA: SOIL SCIENCE & CONSERVATION LANDSCAPES

JULY 7-8 | 9-NOON

Ages: 8-12
$25/child

Experience the heart of the Midwest like never before! Sustainable Iowa is an immersive summer program designed for the next generation of environmental stewards, land managers, and curious dirt-to-table enthusiasts. Set against the backdrop of Iowa's iconic rolling hills and fertile plains, this camp dives deep into conservation in agriculture and the literal foundation of our world: the soil beneath our feet.



CREEKSIDE ADVENTURES

JULY 21-22 | 9-11:30AM

Ages: 5-7
$25/child

Creekside Adventures is an exciting, hands-on summer program designed for young explorers who aren't afraid to get their feet wet. Set along the banks of local waterways, the camp turns the natural world into a living classroom where kids discover the magic of aquatic ecosystems through creek-stomping and a beaver competition.



NIGHT OWLS

JULY 28-29 | 7-10PM

Ages: 8-12
$25/child

While most people are heading indoors, the Night Owls are just getting started. This isn't your typical summer camp—it's an immersive, after-dark journey into the heart of the forest where campers explore their senses. Designed for curious explorers who aren't afraid of the dark, our camp transforms the wilderness into a magical, moonlit classroom learning about lightning bugs, animal tracking, and more.

2026

SUMMER CAMPS

MADISON COUNTY CONSERVATION

MYCOUNTYPARKS.COM

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



VOLUNTEER AT THE WELCOME DESK

WE NEED YOU ON SATURDAYS

10 AM - 2 PM

More shifts available throughout the week.

MADISON COUNTY CONSERVATION CENTER



- Greet local & regional visitors
- Assist with animal care & enrichment
- Answer phones & general FAQs
- Provide local tourism information
- Assist with special projects

YOUR TIME. THEIR FUTURE.

Every volunteer helps us protect wildlife, educate our community, and inspire the next generation of conservationists.

Located in
Pammel State Park
2508 Pammel Park Trail
Winterset, IA 50273

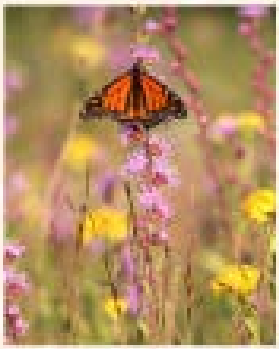
READY TO VOLUNTEER?

515-462-3536
awarnke@madisoncounty.iowa.gov

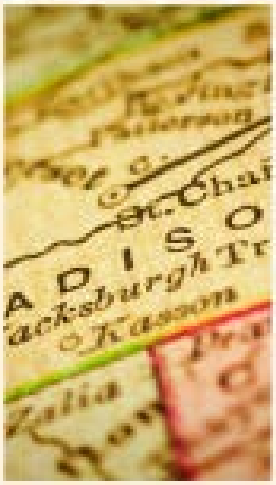
MAPPING MADISON COUNTY

Preserving & Advancing our Cultural, Historical & Ecological Identity









Join a grassroots project led by local citizens and a diverse community of partners!

Purpose: To create a central hub for discovering and sharing the unique resources and stories of Madison County, making local knowledge accessible to inform and inspire.

Vision: To gather diverse data and stories—of Indigenous histories, native ecosystems, historical landmarks, and local wildlife—into an *interactive map*. Users can explore and contribute content related to:

- *Indigenous Cultures*
- *Native Landscapes*
- *Historical Structures*
- *Community Stories*
- *Unique Local Resources*
- *Wildlife & Conservation Practices*
- *Flood Plains, View sheds, & other Environmental Features*

Why Share Your Story?

Each story helps preserve our heritage and may offer unexpected value to others. Contributions support education, research, and community efforts, while connecting people and deepening appreciation for what makes our county special.

How to Contribute

To submit a story, resource, or point of interest, complete a Submission Form.
Forms can be found at
https://tinyurl.com/5bak9pny

Questions?

Contact: Tom Moss at tom_moss1@yahoo.com, 515-249-7091 or Teddi Yaeger at tourism@madisoncounty.com

Supported by Drake University and Iowa State University



Hey Winterset 5th graders,

JOIN THE BAND

1. All students "test" instruments during first weeks of school
2. Band staff provides personalized recommendations for the best fit
3. Info on instrument rental and sign-up is sent home

Scan for more info

Questions? Contact Mr. Whetstone
Email: cwhetstone@winterset.k12.ia.us
Phone: (515) 462-3010 ext. 5139



Summer is right around the corner, and our elementary and middle schools want to keep our reading going strong with our summer Beanstack challenge, Find Your Reading Joy! Students can log their minutes and collect badges all summer.



If your child already participates in the public library's summer reading program, those minutes can be logged to count toward their Beanstack goals as well!

And we'd love to see all of the reading that happens this summer! Send photos of your child reading at home, on vacation, at the park, and with friends and family to district librarian Jill McDonald (jmcdonald@winterset.k12.ia.us) so we can post them on our social media.





We have set a summer community reading goal of 10,000 minutes–let's Find Our Reading Joy to achieve it!

Remember, students will not have access to their school devices over the summer for logging minutes, so be sure to download the Beanstack app on your phone, or help them login online at www.beanstack.com. Click on Find a Site and search Winterset Elementary or Winterset Middle School. Use their full school email address as the username (ex: 99jsmith@winterset.k12.ia.us) and wcsd plus their student ID number as the password (ex: wcsd333111). Feel free to contact Jill McDonald with any questions. Happy reading!





Outdoor Journey for girls

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Contact:
ojcoordinator@gmail.com
https://www.iwinr.com/outdoor-journey-for-girls



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ADHD Parenting > School & Learning

ADHD IN COLLEGE

Why Your Teen Must Learn to Advocate for Himself

When your child goes off to college, he'll need to take care of himself — and that includes being his own ADHD advocate. Make sure he's ready to stick up for himself with teachers and professors.



By Michele Novotni, Ph.D. | Updated on February 17, 2022 | 4 min read

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In This Article

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My son Jarryd decided to fly solo in college. He didn't apply for accommodations, although he had used them in high school. As the semester progressed, he found himself running out of time on exams. A day before his final exams — yes, one day before — he decided to go to the Office for Students with Disabilities and request an extended-time accommodation for his exams.

The OSD person chided him and turned him away, saying he should have applied for accommodations months earlier. Jarryd didn't back down. Using his sense of humor, he asked, "So you mean the office that is supposed to help kids with ADHD doesn't have anything in place for people who come in at the last minute? What's that about?"

The person saw the point and granted his request. If he hadn't spoken up, he would not have gotten the accommodation. That lesson will repeat itself in the lives of young adults diagnosed with ADHD. Parents won't always be there to advocate for their young adults, so it's important to help them advocate for themselves.

How do loving parents, who have been looking out for their child since elementary school, pass the baton of independence to their teen? It's a gradual process, in which the young adult takes an increasingly larger part in making decisions. The good news is self-advocacy can be learned.

1. Help Your Child Understand His Strengths

It's much easier to ask for help when you know your strengths. Our kids are more than a set of ADHD symptoms. They need to know that.

What parents can do: Focus on what your teen does well. Catch him in the act of doing something well, and praise him. Did he feed the dog without your prodding? Did she do her homework without you nagging her? Did he get a good grade on a test? Did she hold her temper when her little brother changed the TV channel? Did he keep trying, even though he was frustrated? These are all reasons to give praise.

Hannah, 17, was a client of mine. Her grades were not up to par for the college she wanted to attend. So she and I talked about her strengths. She has excellent people skills, a good sense of humor, and she is persistent. Our strategy was for her to find a way to meet with a recruiter from the school, and to highlight her strengths. We found a college-recruiting event that a recruiter from her dream school would be attending. She signed up and talked with the recruiter. She followed up with voicemail and e-mails. She was eventually accepted into the school.

2. Talk About Your Teen's Needs

If a young adult knows the specific challenges he faces, it's easier to be involved in meeting them.

What parents can do: Make your teen an active participant in IEP meetings and in managing his medication. It's never too early to start. I work with students as young as six, and have them list what will help them do better in school. I ask the same students to tell doctors about how they feel when they take their medication.

Anton was only seven when he attended his first IEP meeting. He didn't stay for the whole thing, but he did a great job of conveying his needs to the attendees. Afterward, he was proud that he could tell the teachers how his brain worked in the classroom.

3. Encourage Your Teen to Ask for What She Needs

To get help, a young adult has to be proactive and prepared. He should learn to request things from his professors or his boss at work by saying, "I work best when…." or "It helps me if I…."

What parents can do: Sometimes a teen's social skill challenges get in the way of her asking for help. She may be too shy to approach a professor, or worried that she will say the wrong thing. Let her rehearse with you, so she will feel comfortable when she is face to face with the person. Or have her write out a script for herself before talking with the person. If she makes a request through e-mail, ask if you can proofread it before she sends it.

Karen's e-mails to her professor, requesting help on a project, were unfocused and confusing. I wasn't surprised that her professor didn't respond. We sat down and figured out the most effective way to ask for help. She e-mailed her request again, and this time her professor responded – favorably.

A Parent's Guide to Dealing With Fortnite

childmind.org/article/parents-guide-dealing-fortnite/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=pub-ed-nl-2020-02-03&utm_content=parents-guide-dealing-fortnite-read-more

Writer: Rachel Ehmke

Kids of all ages are obsessively playing Fortnite on their phones, computers, PlayStations, Xboxes, and Switches. When they're not playing Fortnite they might be watching streams of other people playing it on Twitch or YouTube. The game's almost hypnotizing popularity has many parents worried.

Sarah, mom to 9-year-old Henry, says that Fortnite is different from other games. "He has played other video games, but he hasn't been so enamored by anything like this before. It's not like a sports game on the Xbox — it's really addicting." She mentions a friend whose ninth grader stays up to 3 and 4 in the morning playing. Brian, father to another 9-year-old, describes walking outside and hearing neighborhood kids screaming about near misses on a Fortnite game like it's a World Cup final.

"We're hearing from a lot of parents worried because their kids seem even more glued to this game than others, and tearing them away from it for homework or dinner is becoming an issue," reports David Anderson, PhD, a clinical psychologist at the Child Mind Institute. "We're also hearing about kids developing behavior around the game that could get them into trouble."

What makes Fortnite so appealing to kids? And how can parents keep them from getting so sucked into the game that it's unhealthy?

Why is Fortnite so compelling?

When people are talking about Fortnite, they are most likely talking about Fortnite: Battle Royale, which is the version of the game where up to 100 players battle to the death, with the winner being the last player standing. The game is similar to the ultra-popular Minecraft in that part of the object of the game is construction. In Fortnite players can build forts from materials they find in their environment. They can also loot supplies and equipment from defeated players, random supply drops, and from chests they find sprinkled around the game map.

"My favorite part of the game is the surprise of finding where the chests are and what's inside them, or what's flying around or what your opponents have if you kill them" says Rusty, a 10-year-old Fortnite player. "Often it's a weapon. Sometimes you get a good weapon, sometimes it's a bad one. You can get shields that protect you, you can get bombs, ammo, sometimes you can get materials."

These surprise rewards can hold a strong appeal for kids. The excitement of finding a chest — and the possibility of what might be inside — is one such strategy that reinforces a person's desire to keep playing and keep getting rewards.

Another feature that makes Fortnite enticing is the near-miss: When your character is killed on Fortnite, you get to see the health bar of the person who killed you. Often you will see that your opponent was also close to dying, so the game feels like it was very close. The near misses are tantalizing, and you're compelled to keep playing.

It's a technique that's used in other combat games, along with Candy Crush, which tells players when they just missed getting to the next level. Researchers studying the effect of these near-misses found that they triggered a substantial urge to keep playing.

"There's something about really trying to win against a group of people and feeling like you're getting better and better and closer and closer," says Sarah. "It almost seems like it's gambling, like a slot machine. It hooks these kids and they feel like they need to keep playing."

"With a game like Fortnite, you're losing frequently, but you also have so much potential with every game," agrees Dr. Anderson, adding, "Not to mention that you don't have to wait too long to start the next game." Each game is about 20 minutes long, and anyone who has ever binge watched a television series knows how quickly time passes with each successive episode.

The social draw

One of the biggest draws of Fortnite is its social component. Kids can play with a friend or in a squad of friends. Rusty plays with his neighbor, and says they try to help each other out during the battles. If playing a game is fun by yourself, it's naturally going to be more fun if you're playing with friends. It also sets up some compelling expectations — and potential conflicts with parents. If you've set a time to play with a friend, you're going to want to keep that appointment. If your friend wants to play the next game, you won't want to let them down.

"With Fortnite, if you're not on when your friends are playing, you've missed it," notes Dr. Anderson. And for kids, feeling left out is one of the worst feelings there is.

Fortnite certainly isn't the first game to let people play together on a team. Games like Quake and Counterstrike also let you team up with a friend. But Fortnite introduces younger kids to the adrenaline-inducing appeal of a first-person shooter game that is played in real time with friends. That's because parents are more likely to give younger kids their blessing to play Fortnite, since its cartoon graphics aren't especially gruesome.

How much is too much?

While all this carefully crafted game design makes Fortnite fun to play, it also makes it hard to stop, so setting limits is necessary.

"We try to take a sense of the amount of free time that a child has, and what we want to know is that there's balance," says Dr. Anderson. He has a checklist of things that he calls "developmentally integral" to a child's life, that parents should make sure kids aren't missing out on. The list includes:

- Seeing friends and interacting with them in real life
- Participating in extracurricular activities they're excited about
- Keeping up with academic classes and doing homework
- Building positive relationships with family members
- Getting enough sleep

A healthy allotment of screen time would be one that wouldn't disrupt these things. Rusty says he gets to play for two-hour blocks on weekends or days off from school, but never on weekdays. This schedule works for him, although he says many of his friends play every day.

You might like the idea of saving video games for the weekend, or you might agree that a smaller amount of time every day — maybe half an hour in the evening — is fine, as long as homework is done first. Whatever you decide, do continue to monitor how your child is doing, Dr. Anderson advises, and don't be afraid to modify the schedule as needed.

Fortnite and behavior issues

Parents should also monitor kids' behavior when they are playing video games, especially social ones like Fortnite, Dr. Anderson advises.

For example, he reports, "Lots of parents will come and tell us, 'My kid only has 30 minutes where they get to play this game on a weeknight, but I walk by and I hear them saying insulting and derogatory things the whole time. What do I do about that?' "

The advice he usually gives starts with explaining the difference between good natured trash talk, which is fine, and bullying, which isn't. He also recommends warning kids that the things they are saying while they are playing can have real life consequences. Someone could take

a screen capture of what your child is saying in chat, or record audio, or a friend's parent could even be in the room overhearing what they are saying. Then things can escalate.

For example, Dr. Anderson warns, "I had a kid last week get suspended from school for a day over swear words and threats that they leveled against another student about Fortnite, and the fact that the other student was playing with a friend of theirs without them."

There are a few lessons here. The first is that kids shouldn't feel like the rules are different in games or online. In video games when kids are feeling competitive — or slighted — and their adrenaline is boosted, it can lead to them saying things they wouldn't normally say face-to-face. But the ordinary rules of conduct should still apply.

This is also important because the habits kids develop while playing video games can generalize into other settings, like school.

Enforcing limits

As with any discipline you enforce as a parent, setting clear limits is important.

Sarah is strict about not letting her son play Fortnite during the school week, unless it's a treat, and he knows that. After hearing her son arguing and getting upset with a friend while playing the game, she also doesn't let him play Fortnite with people he can't play nicely with. But learning more about the game has also taught her when to be a little lenient. Because there's no way to pause the game, she says she'll let her son finish if he's in the middle of a game. Her son appreciates that, and not trying to fight that particular battle helps everyone stay calm.

Brian says his son just got the game. And since he knows how wound up kids can get playing it, he made a point of warning his son that if he hears him getting overly emotional about Fortnite he'll take it away. "Over the weekend we were visiting friends and I heard one of the kids screaming upset because now that Fortnite is released on the Nintendo Switch platform, he couldn't port over the things he had earned on the Xbox," Brian says. That's the kind of outsized reaction that he wants his kid to know isn't acceptable. Normal behavior rules still apply.

Setting limits from the beginning is ideal, but things aren't hopeless if you haven't done this yet. Make sure whatever limits you do decide to establish are made clear to your child, and make sure that you stick to them. Kids will learn pretty quickly if you'll relent and give them an extra 20 minutes of screen time when they throw a tantrum, even if you only give in one out of every four times. Remember that with video games you're up against a potent competitor, and stick to your own guns.
Last reviewed or updated on January 29, 2026.

Learn more about our Family Resource Center and our editorial mission.

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***
- Winterset Huskies for Athletics and Activities updates: ***@WintersetHuskies***
- ***All buildings now have their own Facebook and Twitter Accounts***

Instagram:

- *@Wintersetschools*





Twitter:

- WintersetSchools: ***@WintersetSchool***
- Winterset Huskies for Athletics and Activities updates: ***@WintersetHusky***

Infinite Campus:

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