Winterset Community School District
BEACON
WINTERSET, IOWA JANUARY 2026

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

New Year, New Growth: Preparing Our Students for a Changing World

Dear Winterset Families,

As we kick off the month of January—and reflect on the drastic weather swings we have already experienced this winter—I am reminded that change is inevitable. In many ways, the changing seasons in Iowa mirror the journey of our students. As my own children have grown, I continue to be amazed by how quickly they change and how rapidly the world around them evolves as well.

The arrival of 2026 brings more than just a new date on the calendar; it signals a world that continues to move forward at a breathtaking pace. One of the most significant shifts we are witnessing is the rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI). While these new tools can feel daunting, they also underscore why our work at Winterset Community School District is more important than ever. Our district remains committed to learning about these emerging technologies and empowering both staff and students to use them safely and responsibly. At the same time, we know that technology alone is not enough. The human skills outlined in our Profile of a Graduate (POG)—skills that AI and computers cannot replicate—are what will ultimately set our students up for success in any situation.

In this new era, information is everywhere, but the ability to use it thoughtfully and wisely is a uniquely human skill. That is why we remain steadfast in our commitment to our POG competencies. We are not simply teaching students to memorize facts that a computer can provide in seconds; we are empowering them to become:

Critical Thinkers and Problem Solvers who can evaluate information, recognize bias, and develop solutions to complex, real-world challenges.

Effective Communicators who can share ideas clearly and build authentic human connections that technology can never replace.

Collaborators who work together with respect and empathy to achieve common goals.



December Monthly Highlights

1/5: Classes Resume

1/16: End of Second Term/First Semester - 2 hour early dismissal

Self-Starters with a Growth Mindset who take initiative and view challenges as opportunities to learn and grow.

Our goal is to ensure that when students graduate, they are not just tech-savvy - they are truly future-ready. We want our students to use technology as a tool for innovation while relying on their own character, integrity, and work ethic to lead the way.

As we look ahead to all that 2026 has in store, thank you for your continued partnership and support. Your involvement and support of your students are what make Winterset great.

Together, we are ensuring that no matter how much the world changes, our students will graduate with the enduring skills they need to be College, Career, and Life-Ready.

Yours in Service,

Justin M. Gross

Superintendent

Winterset Community School District

NHS Induction Dec. 15th, 2025



Present Members

Mackenzie Craven
Brooke Davis
Ava Hartman
Alexa Hinrichs
Moses Hochstetler
Abby Hoefing
Carly Hofsaess
Zach Jordan
Landry Kaysen
Elizabeth Kephart
Brooks Nedved
Morgan Vaughn
Luca Wetzel
Halle Wickman

2025 Inductees

Grace Anderson
Delaney Eckles
Ella Hall
Cael Hirsch
Cameron Sheffield
Nicholas Swalve
Addy Gross
Taylor Van Pelt
Bailey Baldwin
Annabelle Barrett
Penelope Petsche
Ava Frank
Maven Smith
Dane Van Werden
Keira Taylor
Max Booton
Harper Brown
Lillian Burkett
Denali Coffman
Gary Lawrence
Madelyn Norstrom
Ava Leonard
Maci Olson
Makenna Olson
Klaire Seidler

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 school families 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


PAW PANTRY
2026 DATES
JAN. 8, 2026
4:30-6:00
FEB. 12, 2026
4:30-6:00
MARCH 12, 2026
4:30-6:00
APRIL 9, 2026
4:30-6:00
MAY 14, 2026
4:30-6:00
PLEASE PARK IN THE FRONT/EAST PARKING LOT
ENTER THROUGH THE DOORS BY THE
PLAYGROUND AT 4:30

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

- 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.

2025-26 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	8:00-3:00	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	9:00-3:00	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 ..... $5.00 per meal
Student Guest (all grades) ..... $5.00 per meal
Adult Lunch ..... $5.00 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.

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.

CONCERT SCHEDULE

March 2026

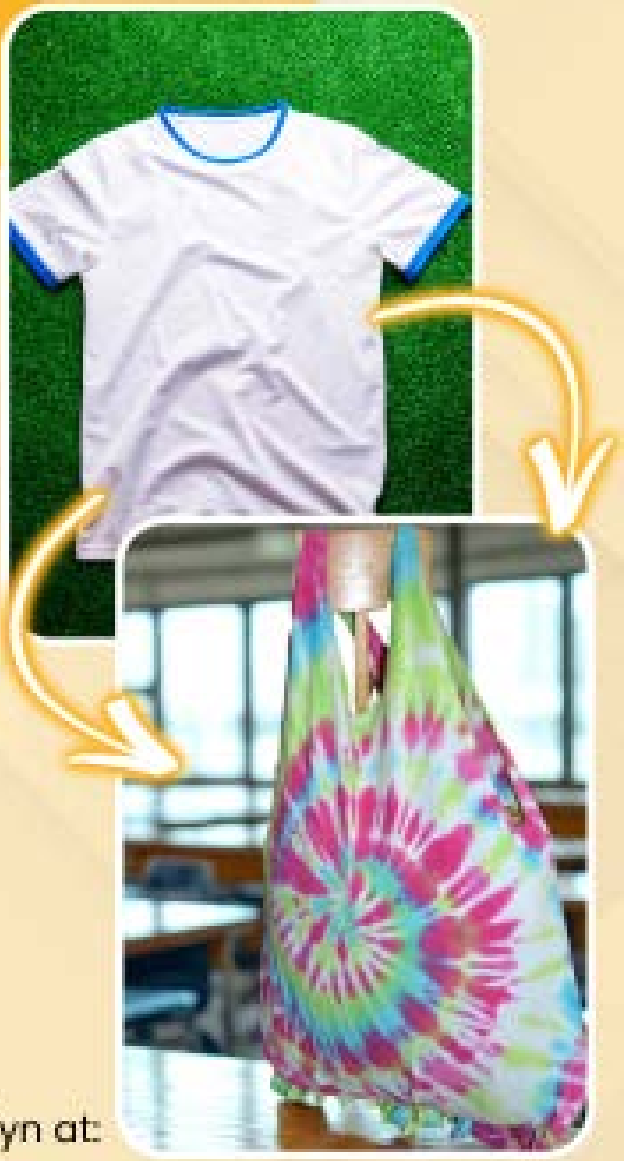
MON 23	**3rd Grade Music Concert** 7:00 PM **HENRY C. MILLER AUDITORIUM, Winterset, IA**
TUES 24	**2nd Grade Music Concert** **7:00 PM** **HENRY C. MILLER AUDITORIUM, Winterset, IA**
MON 30	**1st Grade Music Concert** **7:00 PM** **HENRY C. MILLER AUDITORIUM, Winterset, IA**
TUES 31	**Kindergarten Music Concert** **7:00 PM** **HENRY C. MILLER AUDITORIUM, Winterset, IA**



PAW PANTRY REQUEST

WE NEED YOUR OLD T-SHIRTS!

WMS students are engaging in a service project to create no-sew pantry bags out of old adult size t-shirts.



Send your adult size t-shirts with your child to school or drop off at the Administration Office (303 Wambold Dr.) between 7:30AM- 4:00 PM from 1/12-1/23.

Questions? Email Jolyn at: jjrobe76@hotmail.com

NOW SHOWING...

The 2026 Mother Son Dance



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 27, 2026; 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 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 registration. Same day registration...$20.

Couple Name:

Additional boy:

Enclosed $15 Registration, $5 for any additional boys

Total Enclosed:


WINTERSET HIGH
COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR
FEBRUARY 11TH || 12:00 – 3:00 PM
ARE YOU A...
Business
College & University
Trade School
Military Branch
JOIN US WITH THE CODE
EMAIL THE HS
COUNSELORS FOR
QUESTIONS
Kathy Erickson: kerickson@winterset.k12.ia.us
Sydney Slagter: sslagter@winterset.k12

WHS Guidance Department

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

3rd TERM CONFERENCES: Third term conferences will be Wednesday, February 25th from 3:30-7:30PM.

With January upon us, it is time for Senior parents to get serious about filing the necessary forms for financial aid. The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) opened in September. It is free and is necessary even if you don't think you will qualify for a Pell Grant. FAFSA completion is required to be eligible for many scholarships, even if you don't qualify for any federal financial assistance. You must file the FAFSA on the website: FAFSA.gov

If you would like assistance with FAFSA completion, you can make a one-on-one appointment with a FAFSA specialist, either in-person or virtually at www.icansucceed.org .

College Costs - How to hold them down!

The U.S. Department of Education has a Website to give students and families the facts they need to plan and prepare for college. The Student Aid on the Web—a powerful Web tool that encompasses the entire federal student aid process, does everything from assess a student's career interests to help a student apply for financial aid. The web site www.studentaid.gov/ provides students and parents with free, online tools to help them access information about higher education and learn the facts about its affordability.

With college costs rising every year, it is good to remember the area community colleges. They provide the first two years of college or vo-tech training at bargain basement prices. Remember! Borrowed money still has to be paid back sometime.

Get connected to the most comprehensive online resource on planning and paying for college. Visit the free Sallie Mae Scholarship Service and register to win a Scholarship to help offset your college expenses and take advantage of their low interest loan rates. www.salliemae.com

EncourageMe is a free app that includes college planning tools, scholarship matches, and career exploration. Answer simple questions about your preferences, priorities about affordability, and other interests, and they'll match you to your best-fit scholarship opportunities. Visit: https://encourageme.com/

Testing & Test Scores

Free college admission Test Prep through I Have A Plan Iowa. Iowa College Aid provides free ACT, SAT and GRE test prep to help students strengthen relevant skills, learn test-taking strategies and gain more confidence in their abilities. Visit I have a plan for more information.

The following ACT's will be offered at WHS: Please register online at www.actstudent.org
02/14/26- register no later than January 7th (January 21st w/late fee)

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

04/11/26- register no later than March 6th (March 24th w/late fee)
06/13/26- register no later than May 8th (May 27th w/late fee)

The Des Moines Electrical JATC Program is open to high school graduates or veterans with a GED or have a two-year Associate Degree or higher and be at least 18 years of age. You must have successfully completed not less than one year of high school algebra or one post high school algebra course with a passing grade. This is an excellent opportunity if you are interested in pursuing an exciting, lucrative and rewarding career within the electrical, (commercial), residential and telecommunications industry. For more information, you can contact the National Electrical Apprenticeship Administrative Office at 1-800-572-6191 or you may visit their website at http://www.dmelejatc.org/

January Tips for Students

Seniors
Submit your FAFSA if you haven't already done so. Need help? Visit www.icansucceed.org/events to find a FAFSA completion event near you.
Obtain financial aid forms from programs that require forms in addition to the FAFSA.
Apply for scholarships!!! The Winterset Local Scholarship Application is open now! You can access it by logging into https://appcentri.com/. The deadline for most of the scholarships is March 1st. You can also find more scholarships on the counseling homepage. Don't pass up these great opportunities!
Send in college housing applications.
Watch the mail and your email accounts for letters of acceptance.
Juniors
Register now to take the next ACT at WHS on Feb 14th. The deadline to register without a late fee is Jan 7th. Coupons and/or fee waivers may be available to you, see your counselor. Register at actstudent.org
Review your school's master calendar for 'No School' days to schedule college campus visits.
Explore your options and take advantage of college representatives and career speakers at our school. Listen to the announcements for when college reps will visit and upcoming college visits.
Build a list of colleges to consider. Use online college match tools such as chegg.com or collegeraptor.com to find the best fit and compare financial aid estimates.
Sophomores
Keep a record of your extracurricular involvement in an activities resume - a concise summary of your achievements, talents and interests.
Talk to your school counselor about college admission requirements and make sure you take the right classes.
Review your financial plan for college and make sure it aligns with your career assessment and salary options.
Review your financial plan for post-high school education or training programs and make sure your plan aligns with your career assessment and salary options. Visit MyACT.org
Freshmen
Now's the perfect time to learn financial aid. It's made up of four types of assistance: grants, schol-

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

arships, loans and work-study. Scholarships and grants are free sources of money that don't have to be paid back! A LOAN is money given to you to help you pay for expenses and it must be repaid. Saving money is the best way to prepare for the cost of education and training. Talk to your parents about a college savings plan to help cover college costs.
What subjects do you like in school!? MyACT.org is an online program that can help you search for careers related to those subjects.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP FORM IS NOW ON APPCENTRI. If you are attending any post-secondary education, this is FREE money that could help with it! Log into https://appcentri.com/ to get started. You can also find a list of scholarships on the Counseling page under scholarships. All local scholarship applications are due March 1st.

Grand Lodge of Iowa Masonic Scholarships will be awarding scholarships to a number of high school seniors who will graduate this academic year from a public high school within the state of Iowa. The exact dollar amount of each scholarship will depend upon the size of investment income from the Scholarship Endowment Fund. In 2016, sixty scholarships of $2,000 each were awarded. Applications are available at Grand Lodge of Iowa Masonic Scholarship Page. The deadline is February 1.

Charles & Lois Taylor (First Christian Church) Scholarship: Applications are submitted to Farmers and Merchants State Bank. Late applications will not be considered. Only residents of Madison County, Iowa who are also graduates of a high school or equivalent located in Madison County are eligible to apply for financial assistance to attend any accredited technical school, community college, college, university, graduate or professional school. Preference will be given to members of First Christian Church of Winterset, Iowa. Financial need is a prime consideration. Grade point average is not a prime consideration, but satisfactory academic progress should be demonstrated by the applicant. You will find the applications at Charles & Lois Taylor/First Christian Church. The deadline is April 1.

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.

Mrs. Erickson (Last Name A-J): kerickson@winterset.k12.ia.us (Schedule A Meeting)
Ms. Slagter (Last Name K-Z): sslagter@winterset.k12.ia.us (Schedule A Meeting)



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 2	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Boone	Winterset
Jan 6	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Clarke	Winterset
Jan 9	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Carlisle	Carlisle
Jan 13	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Ballard	Ballard
Jan 16	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Gilbert	Gilbert
Jan 19	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Van Meter	Winterset
Jan 20	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	B-F	B-F
Jan 23	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	ADM	Winterset
Jan 27	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	North Polk	Winterset
Jan 30	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Carroll	Carroll
Feb 2	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Harlan	Winterset
Feb 3	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Boone	Boone
Feb 10	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Carlisle	Winterset
Feb 13	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	Ballard	Winterset
Feb 17	4:30 PM	9/JV/V-G/B	DMC	Winterset

JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL

DATE	TIME	LEVEL	OPPONENT	SITE
Jan 22	4:15 PM	7 A/B/C	North Polk	Winterset JH
		8 A/B/C	North Polk	North Polk MS
Jan 26	4:15 PM	7 A/B/C	ADM	Winterset JH
		8 A/B/C	ADM	ADM HS-South Gym
Jan 29	4:15 PM	7 A/B/C	Bond-F	B-F JH Gym
		8 A/B/C	Bond-F	Winterset JH

JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS WRESTLING

DATE	TIME	LEVEL	OPPONENT	SITE
Jan 13	4:15 PM	7/8	MSTM	MSTM
Jan 20	4:15 PM	7/8	Tourney	WInterset
Jan 27	4:15 PM	7/8	ADM	ADM

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 3	10 am	V-G	Clarinda Tourney	Clarinda
Jan 5	4:30 pm	V-G	Knights Tourn	Carroll
Jan 8	5:30 pm	V-G	Nevada Duals	Nevada
Jan 8	5:30 pm	JV/V-B	BF	Bondurant
Jan 10	9:30 am	V -B	Winterset Tourn	Winterset
Jan 15	5:30 pm	JV/V-G-B	Carroll, Creston	WInterset
Jan 16	4:30 pm	V-G	Creston Tourn	Creston
Jan 17	9:00 am	V -B	K-C Dual	Carroll
Jan 20	5:00 pm	JV/V-G	Boone Invite	Boone
Jan 22	5:30 pm	JV/V- B	Boone, NP	Boone
Jan 23	5:30 pm	V-G	RRC Tourn	Carroll
Jan 23-24	4, 10	V-B	Corning Tourn	Corning
Jan 30	4:00 pm	V-G	Regional	TBA
Jan 31	10 am	V B	RRC Tourney	Ballard
Feb 2	5:00 pm	JV-B	DCG	DC-G
Feb 3	11 am	V-B	Dual Reg	TBD
Feb 7	TBD	V-B	Dual State	Corralville
Feb 14	11 am	V-B	District Tourney	TBD

GAME TICKETS

A new school year is upon us and with it comes a new year of athletic competition. We are looking forward to outstanding seasons in all areas.

$8 for All High School Events & $5 for Junior High Activity Passes for the 2025-2026 school year will need to be purchased through Bound.

SENIOR CITIZEN'S PASS

Any person age sixty-five (65) or older, is eligible to obtain a Senior Citizen Pass. This pass is good for admission to all of the school's activities except state-sponsored tournaments. To obtain this pass, stop by the High School Office, 720 Husky Drive, or call (515) 462-3320.

LEGO CLUB

Children ages 8-12 welcome.

No registration required.

Held 3:30-4:30 p.m. the 3rd Thursday of the month:



October 16, 2025

November 20, 2025

December 18, 2025

January 15, 2026

February 19, 2026

March 19, 2026 **April 16, 2026** **May 21, 2026**

WINTERSET PUBLIC LIBRARY

Thematic builds each month and displayed after sessions. Legos will be provided, please do not bring your own.

COME BUILD WITH US!

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



Christmas4Kids (CRISP) and Operation Santa Claus (MATURA) are working together to serve Madison County families.
We will provide families who sign up for our combined Holiday Program:
Toys, Clothing AND a Food Box.

If your family needs assistance this holiday season,
or you know of someone who does, please contact either of our offices.
CRISP 515-462-9400, MATURA 515-462-4704.


Friday Flicks
Friday Movies:
October 24, 2025
January 16, 2026
March 27, 2026
May 29, 2026
WINTERSET
PUBLIC LIBRARY
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An occasional craft to accompany the movie. Check our website for the movie to be shown.
No registration for this event.


RECOMMENDED AGES 10 AND UP
PARTICIPANTS BEHAVIOR MUST FOLLOW LIBRARY POLICY
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MONDAYS FROM 3 - 5
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The Winterset FFA Chapter has been busy this holiday season. We started off the end of November going into December with creating a float for the town's Lighted Parade. We built a 'Let it Snow' themed float that won the Committees Choice Award! Congratulations to our members for all of their hard work and dedication! This month we were hard at work selling poinsettias and delivering fruit and cheese orders. Thank you to everyone who purchased from our members. Your purchase is greatly appreciated in supporting not only the Winterset FFA Chapter, but also our member's goals to attend conventions, contests, and all other activities. Thank you again! This month we held our Ignite the Spirit community dinner on December 15th at the Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Winterset. It was a free meal open to the public as a way to give back this season. We served pulled pork sandwiches along with green beans, applesauce, and cheesy potatoes to the community. We are thankful to all of the community members that we were able to feed, and the donations given. This month members attended the I.A.T. Conference, standing for Ignite, Amplify, and Transform. Both Highschool and Junior High students were able to attend. They learned different leadership, public speaking, effective relationship and communication skills. As well as how they can improve the agriculture industry. We are excited about all of the new activities that are to come in the following months! Such as FFA week and our upcoming plant sales! Thank you again to all of our supporters, volunteers, members, and community. We couldn't pull it off without all of you!

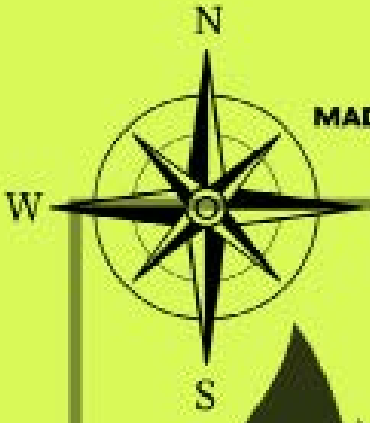




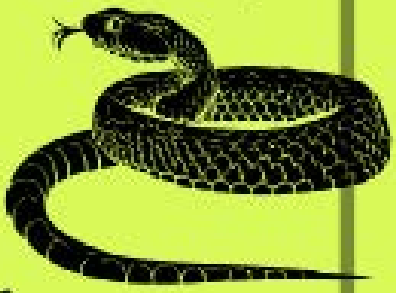
In Blue and Gold,
Winterset FFA Reporter
Denali Coffman

LIVE WILD

MADISON COUNTY CONSERVVATION CENTER
PAMMEL PARK









MADISON COUNTY CONSERVATION

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

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
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7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

OCTOBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
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19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

NOVEMBER				
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30				

DECEMBER				
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JANUARY				
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FEBRUARY				
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MARCH				
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29	30	31		

APRIL				
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MAY				
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24	25	26	27	28
31				

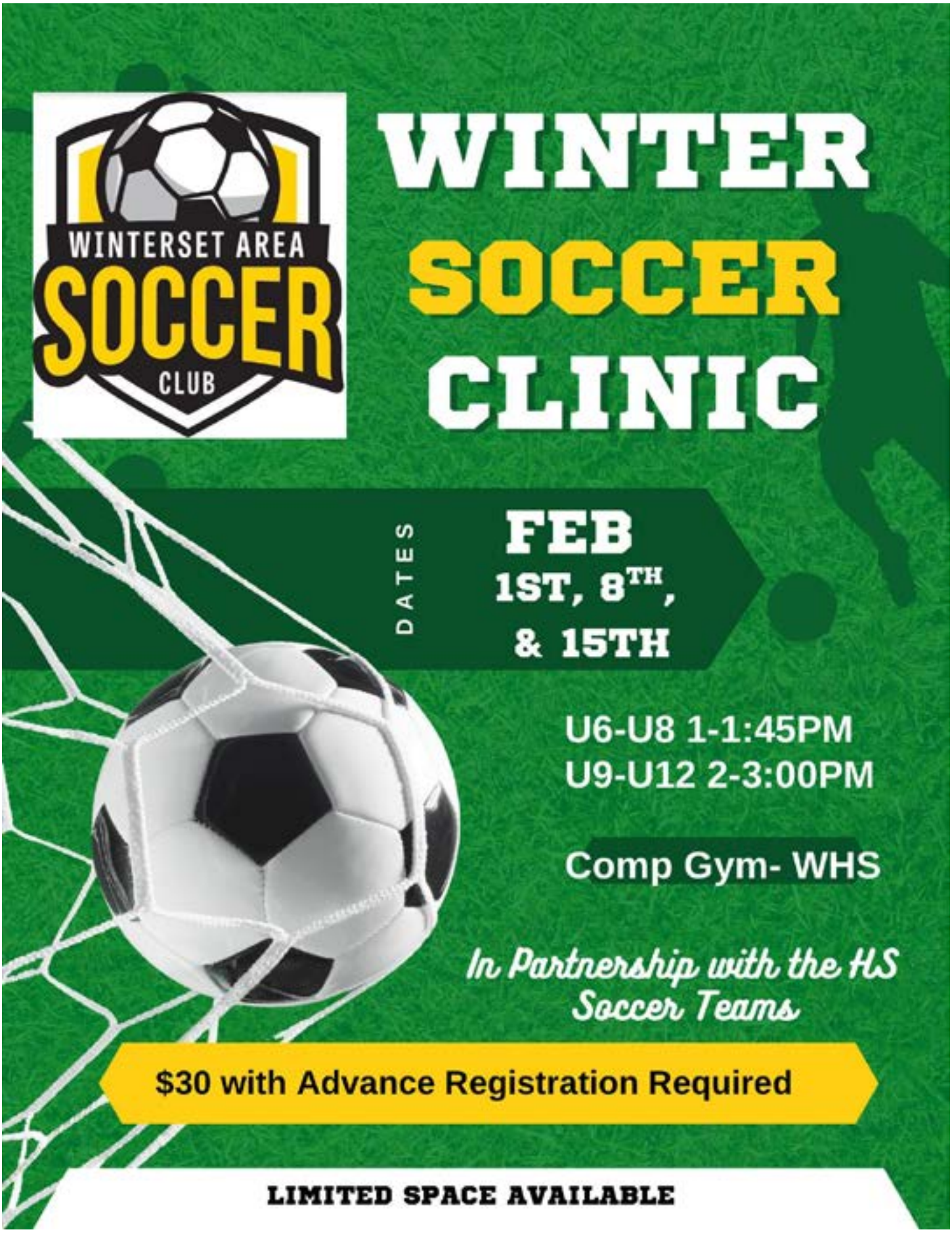
August	20	Family Engagement Night
	24	First Day of School
September	7	No School - Labor Day
	25	Homecoming
	30	High School Parent Teacher Conferences
October	15 & 22	Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences
	20 & 22	Middle School Parent Teacher Conferences
	23	End of Term 1 (44 Days)
	26	No School - TQ 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 (46 Days)
	18	No School - Teacher Work Day
February	10	High School Parent Teacher Conferences
	15	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 (49 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
1/16/2027	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 - 3:05

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 - 1:35

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


WINTERSET AREA
SOCCER
CLUB
WINTER
SOCCER
CLINIC
DATES
FEB
1ST, 8TH,
& 15TH
U6-U8 1-1:45PM
U9-U12 2-3:00PM
Comp Gym- WHS
In Partnership with the HS
Soccer Teams
$30 with Advance Registration Required
LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE


WINTERSET AREA
SOCCER
CLUB
SPRING 2026
REGISTRATION
OPENS 01/01/2026
U9 & ABOVE (DOB:2007-2017)
DEADLINE 2/15/2026
U6&U8 (DOB:2018-2021)
DEADLINE 3/15/2026
TO REGISTER VISIT:
WWW.WASCSOCCER.NET

It's a Brand New Ballgame at Winterset Little League

Celebrating our 60th Season!

Join us for front-row seats to the next inning of hometown recreational baseball and softball. As we enter our 60th season, Winterset Little League is taking the field with a renewed focus on developing confident, respectful, and resilient young people while fostering character, teamwork, skill development, and a lifelong love for the game.

This season, we're taking a swing at a refocused structure and more family-friendly schedules, while keeping our eye on the ball: a balanced vision for youth sports that brings our community together to create a positive, supportive environment where every player can grow, belong, and thrive, on and off the field.

A dedicated group of parents, volunteer coaches, and community members have been working behind the scenes to put kids back at the center of everything we do, along with collaborating with other youth sports clubs in Winterset to encourage players and families alike to get to the fields, and they've knocked it out of the park.

Sure, we were thrown a few curveballs, and we don't expect to bat a thousand right away. Here are a few of the lineup changes for this on-deck season:

Predictable practice and game schedules with baseball on Mon/Wed and softball on Tues/Thur

Registration is $80 for Minors and Majors, $55 for PeeWees with quality, locally supported uniforms.

More time reserved for practices and skill development than ever before

Early March "Spring Training" skills camp

Coaches' Clinic and tons of coaching resources
So grab your glove, rally the family, and step up to the plate for a fun, family-friendly season. Because while the wins may fade, the positive habits, memories, and friendships will last a lifetime.

Touch base with Winterset Little League on Facebook for more information and to find a registration link.

Join your Hometown Huskies as we swing for the fences and take the field for the 60th season of Winterset Little League!

Established 1966

10 Ways to Help Your Kids When the World Seems Scary

by Rebecca Hastings.



It was a normal evening, full of dinner making and homework and activity. My youngest sat at the table doing a math worksheet, my oldest was practicing her flute, and my son was shooting hoops. I stood at the stove, chopping an onion for the sauce. Normal.

"Mom, what's Sandy Hook?" my youngest asked.

I stopped chopping, grateful my back was to her and also that I had been chopping an onion. Even after all these years the name of that small town in my small state brings tears to my eyes.

I inhaled, and exhaled, perhaps taking a moment too long to answer. She was probably wondering if I heard her. How could I explain this to my little girl? How could I tell her that I still remember exactly where I was sitting and where she was playing as I watched the tragedy unfold on the news? Kids, just like my own, at school, murdered.

I turned to face her, my girl blissfully unaware of the deep heartache those two words held. Sandy Hook was no longer just a small town an hour away; it was forever ingrained as a tragedy. And now my little girl wanted to know about it. Talking to my daughter about handling tragedy was not what I imagined was on our agenda for the evening.

"Where did you hear about Sandy Hook?" I asked, sitting next to her.

"Someone said it at school."

I had braced myself for questions about the recent shootings in the news, but somehow bringing up Sandy Hook caught me off guard. It felt different. Not because it was any more or less tragic, but because it was so close to home, so different from anything I'd ever experienced. When something happens often enough your reaction changes.

I've always believed in telling my kids age appropriate truth. But the truth was I didn't want my girl to know *this*. I didn't want her to have this understanding that terrible things happen to children and sometimes we can't understand. I wanted to protect her.

But ignorance is not protection. So I forged ahead.

I gently told her about a very sick person who made some very bad choices and murdered people in a school. Yes, many of them were kids. No, it doesn't make sense.

I explained that safety is very important and we talked about all the ways her school keeps her safe, partially because of lessons learned on that tragic day.

I didn't rush. Homework and dinner could wait. I gave her a chance to ask questions and let her keep doodling as we talked. I even grabbed a pencil and doodled a little myself. Sometimes hard things are easier to talk about when we can do something with our hands and don't have to make eye contact.

The whole thing took five minutes. And then she moved on. It took me a little longer as I went back to my onion.

Another day passes and another tragic story is on the news. Today it's Parkland. Not long ago there was a shooting in Las Vegas and before that a small town in Texas. And, sadly, the list goes on. Shootings, attacks, brutality is all part of the landscape. We are aware of it, and so are our children.

Providing kids the means for handling tragedies can feel hard, but it is very important that we do this. Here are 10 practical tips to help your kids when the world seems scary.

1. Turn Off the News

Watching the news cycle repeat over and over doesn't help anyone. The images, repeated stories, personal accounts, and police reports are hard for kids to make sense of. The news is hard for kids.

You can get all the news you need in one well reported or well-written story. Then turn it off. Don't have it running in the background. Also, be aware of switching the radio station as needed. Kids need news from you, not broadcasters.

2. Ask, But Don't Push

Ask your child if he's heard about the most recent tragedy. Find out what they already know. Open the door and leave it open, but don't force him to walk through it. Sometimes recognizing that it can be talked about is enough for one day. Let him talk when he's ready.

3. Talk About Your Feelings, But Don't Dwell on Them

Kids should see that their parents feel things because it gives them permission to feel, too. Especially since they don't understand all of the feelings inside themselves.

Express your feelings gently without dwelling on them. Admit what you don't understand. Model healthy ways to express your feelings.

4. State Your Ideas Concisely

It's good for kids to hear their parents' ideas about hard subjects. For better or worse, they help kids develop their own ideas. Having excessive, lengthy rants about gun control or military action is not helpful for kids. These are scary subjects for kids. You can express your idea simply and ask kids what they think if it seems appropriate.

For example, with a tween or teen you could say, "I think this is why I have a hard time understanding why people need guns. Maybe I don't know everything about it, but I don't think the average person needs an automatic weapon. What do you think?"

With a younger child something simpler like, "Who do you think should have guns? I'm glad that the police learn how to use their weapons safely to keep us safe," is a better choice.

Make sure what you say is age appropriate and offers an opportunity for your child to think and express ideas, even if they are different from your own.

5. Don't Worry

I know that sounds impossible; worry is an automatic response for parents. But worrying all the time in every situation will only breed worry and fear in your child. As parents we need to think about safety, but also decide what is appropriate to share with our children and when.

An example with young kids maybe just to get them thinking: "Hey, I noticed that there is an emergency exit over there. Do you see any more? It's always good to know where they are."

With older kids it may be something different: "I see a police officer over there. If I got pulled over what do you think I should do? I always try to keep my hands on top of the steering wheel where the officer can see them so there is no confusion about what I'm doing."

These are hard conversations, and should not be the only thing we talk about. But weaving thoughts like this into our everyday lives will help our children think proactively about being safe without making them afraid of every possible situation.

6. Use Your Hands

Sometimes it's hard for kids, and even adults, to express their feelings when something scary happens in the world. Providing opportunities to work out some of their feelings by keeping our hands busy helps the intensity fade a little.

Working in the yard, going for a run, coloring or even using play-doh gives us the opportunity to express feelings without the pressure to say everything.

7. Be the Good

Give kids a tangible way to help. If you are religious, go beyond the idea of praying for people and actually pray together. Make cards or cookies for first-responders.

The tragedy may not have happened in your area, but encouraging the police, fire, and EMS workers that keep us safe helps them and you. Give them something to do that makes them feel like part of the solution.

8. Answer Questions Honestly

Kids crave information, and they often feel like they don't get the whole story. It's okay and healthy to give them information in an age-appropriate manner. If they know they can trust you for the truth, they are more likely to come to you with their questions.

9. Be Grateful

The bad things that happen have a way of bombarding us. The news and public conversation all focus on the terrifying things that happen. Make sure you purposefully look for good. It doesn't need to be fake or cliché. Being grateful increases empathy, reduces aggression, and helps with stress. Make time to practice gratitude.

10. Comfort and Reassure

All of us can use some of this, especially the little ones in our lives. Make time for hugs and snuggles. Be there and be close. Your presence will help them remember that they are safe. It just may help you get through it too.



2-Minute Action Plan for Fine Parents

Think about a recent tragedy that occurred in the news. Did your kids ask about it? How did they handle it? How did you handle it? What kinds of questions did they ask? If they didn't talk to you about it, think about what kind of conversation you might have had with them. What do you think you would have said?

Which item above feels the easiest for you to implement? Think about how you can do that next time something scary happens.

What scary events do you remember from your childhood? How did you feel? What would have made them less scary?

Long-Term Action Plan for Fine Parents

Develop a plan for how you will react the next time there is a tragedy. Think about how to speak to your kids in age-appropriate ways and how to reassure them while giving accurate information.

Talk to your kids about something recent in the news that is difficult to discuss. It may not be a tragedy, but consider this preparation for when something harder comes along. Maybe it is something like a small fire or a robbery. Be purposeful in what you choose to talk about and try some of the strategies listed above.

Remember, you are the safety your child craves in a world that can feel scary. Show them that you are willing to talk about the hard things and it will help you both.

How to Deal With the "I WANT" Monster Positively

by Mindy Carlson.



I hate shopping with my children.
There. I said it. And I'll say it again.
I hate shopping with my children.

There is nothing I dread more than taking my kids into a store. Any store. Grocery. Clothing. Toys. *Especially* toys.

It's not that they are bad children. They are well-behaved for the most part. But at some point, as we are wandering around the store, the "I WANT" Monster appears. The "I WANT" Monster is a wild little Tasmanian devil. He comes whirling and spinning out of his cave at the first scent of anything bright and shiny and new.

"I want this."

"Can I have that?"

"I *need* these."

"*Please, please* buy me those."

Everything around them is a candy-colored rainbow. It's sooooo tempting.

"I just can't stand it!" panted my 7-year-old son, standing in the Star Wars aisle of Target, tortured by the clones and Jedi surrounding him.

Me either, son.

What's with all this greed? Where does the "I WANT" Monster come from anyway?

Every child wants things. Heck, we all want things. Just today I was tempted by a really pretty China bowl with a metal hummingbird on the rim and a hot pair of heels that would look perfect with a dress I have.

In a world of television and social media overload, our society has pushed "keeping up with the Joneses" to a whole new level. It's hard to curb materialistic desires, but here are 5 techniques that can help.

1. Find Other Joys



You know why we love buying things? Why do our children feel total elation over getting yet another Lego set? It turns out it's a chemical in our brains called dopamine.

A Wall Street Journal interview with Gregory Burns, a neuroscientist with Emory University says, "Dopamine is associated with feelings of pleasure and satisfaction, and it's released when we experience something new, exciting, or challenging. And for many people, shopping is all those things."

Luckily, there is another way to get this dose of dopamine. Physical activity. Ever heard of the runner's high? That is due to dopamine.

In fact, anything that is hard work or a thrill will get you that same feeling. So instead of having your child focus on things, get them focused on other joys. Take them hiking. Challenge them with a new building project.

When you teach them a new way of getting that same dopamine high, they will go back to that activity instead of needing to buy more things to feel good.

2. Instill the Joy of Giving

We all know the phrase, "'tis better to give than to receive." It's true for me. I feel better when I give a gift than when I get a gift.

Focusing on what they will be *giving* to others helps to distract my boys from the *getting*. It also teaches kids to put others first and instills empathy for others.

Growing up, our church had a giving tree at Christmas. It was hung with paper ornaments with a child's age and a list of needs and wishes. My brother and I would each choose an ornament and then go shopping for gifts for them. We never knew their names. We never saw them receive the gifts. But we knew the generosity we were showing was making a positive difference in their lives.

I continue to do this as an adult. And not just at Christmas. When I bake, I will often have the boys put together a plate of goodies for our neighbors. I also have them use their artistic talents. They use paint and colors to make birthday and get-well cards for their friends and grandparents.

We talk about how special it is that we made it ourselves. We chat about how good we feel to share something with others. Helping them to practice generosity through sharing their talents not only increases their ability to empathize with others, but it also builds their self-esteem by validating their talents.

3. Encourage Gratitude



Along with generosity goes gratitude. Thankfulness for the gifts we have received in our lives.

By gifts I don't only mean presents. I'm talking about feeling gratitude for the school supplies we just purchased, the clean clothes in the closet, or the time I give them on the iPads.

There are many ways one can try to help gratitude bubble up from the subconscious to the conscious. If I want them to appreciate clean clothes or dinner on the table, I need to have them help me with the laundry and cooking. Once they put in the effort, they will appreciate what it takes for all this to happen around them.

Another way to get them to feel some gratitude is to actually ask them what they feel grateful for. A study by the University of Illinois found that when kids, ages 11-17, kept a gratitude journal there was a significant increase in gratitude and a decrease in materialism. *In just 2 weeks.*

My kids are reluctant to journal and won't do it consistently, so we started a gratitude moment at the dinner table instead. My husband and I ask the boys what they feel grateful for today and we share our own thoughts. It makes for a nice, warm family moment.

It can be anything from "we got dessert today" and to "that I have you for a mom and dad." The point is you get them thinking about all the good things they already have in their lives. After a while they end up "I WANT"ing less.

4. Slow Down and Find Mindfulness

A partner of generosity and gratitude is mindfulness. Mindfulness is being really aware and conscious of actions you take, how you feel, and what is happening around you.

Too often I find I do not receive gifts mindfully. And I do not give them mindfully. I slather my children with gifts. So many it's impossible for them to really see every single one.

Psychologists agree that giving fewer gifts and opening them slower helps with developing mindfulness and appreciation. With mindfulness they can focus on what they have instead of bouncing to the next gift, while barely seeing what they have.

The gratitude journal or gratitude moment I mentioned earlier can also help teach mindfulness. You can also practice mindfulness driving around or taking a walk through the neighborhood. Simply pointing out what you are seeing and hearing around you as you go about can teach everyone how to be more mindful.

And the "I WANT" monster comes out less often.

5. Have them Buy it Themselves

When we lived in Switzerland, I was surprised to learn how many children went out shopping and running errands for themselves. They had learned the concept of money and cost at an early age.

Because they had learned the concept of cost, our neighbor's children were also pickier about what they spent their money on. In contrast, my children had no idea what was expensive and what "cost" was about.

So, we decided to teach them. We started to give our children an allowance. We also started paying them for extra jobs around the house. Then we stopped buying them Legos and soccer balls every time they asked.

We had *them* buy the toys.

It was amazing to see the transformation. The power to buy that new toy was suddenly in their hands. It was their money to do with as they pleased.

Having limited funds taught them about value and measuring the level of "want" for a toy. They put more thought into their purchases and learned some hard lessons along the way.

Practicing all these things has helped the "I WANT" Monster retreat back into its cave. He still raises his head and sniffs the air from time to time, but he whirls into action much less often now.

Taking the boys with me to shop might even become enjoyable one of these days.

The 2-Minute Action Plan for Fine Parents

Take a quiet moment and sit down for a couple of minutes to contemplate some questions.

- How often does the "I WANT" Monster come out? What is it they beg for the most? Which stores bring out their "I WANT" Monster?
- Who is around that they can share their talents with and practice generosity? Can they write a letter or draw a picture for their grandparents? Take cookies to the neighbor?
- What are you doing to model generosity, gratitude, and mindfulness?

The Ongoing Action Plan for Fine Parents

Taming the "I WANT" Monster is a long road. It takes time and consistency to change a mindset from taking to giving. With that in mind, take another few minutes to outline a long-term action plan.

- When during the day can you start a gratitude journal or a moment of gratitude with your children?
- How can you practice mindfulness with your children? Can you take some walks? Do yoga? Or maybe you can fit in mindful moments throughout the day?
- What do your children know about money or the cost of everyday things? What can you do to educate them?
- How can you incorporate other joys into your and your children's lives? What other new and exciting experiences can you expose your children to?

6 Hacks for Homework Overwhelm

Help your child remain focused and calm by planning transition times, refraining from nagging, and trying these other tried-and-true best practices for reducing homework stress.

By Beverley Holden JohnsUpdated on August 1, 2025



After a long school day spent completing worksheets, staying seated, and managing assignments, your child predictably and understandably revolts at the mention of homework. (Hello, cognitive overload and academic anxiety.)

How can you support your child so they feel less pressure? Follow these tried-and-true best practices to prevent homework mutiny.

6 Steps to Reduce Homework Stress

Step #1. Plan Transition Time

Your child needs time to decompress after school. Provide a healthy snack. Encourage them to participate in a sport or in another afternoon activity. If the weather and your schedule permit, take a walk together to clear your heads in the fresh air.

Step #2. Sort Assignments

Ask your child where they'd like to do their homework — on the kitchen table, in their bedroom, on the floor? Sit with them in their chosen location and help them begin their homework by reviewing their assignments and checking the week's upcoming deadlines.

[Get This Download: Smart Homework Strategies]

Step #3. Begin with Preferred Tasks

Have your child estimate how long it will take them to complete each task. Ask them to choose the easiest assignment and start with that one. This strategy, known as behavioral momentum, works like this: Your student completes the undaunting task successfully, which provides momentum to keep going and finish the harder or more boring assignments.

Step #4. Hit Pause and Reset

Break tasks into manageable parts. If your child loses focus after 15 minutes of work, have them take a mindful minute to reset with some stretches, deep breathing, and a glass of water

before they return to the task. After it's finished, compare the time it took to complete the task with your child's estimate. This review reinforces an awareness of time.

Step #5. Provide Help When Needed

Offer your child encouragement and assistance as needed, especially with assignments they find challenging. Let the teacher(s) know that your child struggled with those assignments and explain why.

Step #6. Refrain from Nagging

Make "homework time" as positive as possible. Avoid nagging or pleading. If you see a power struggle coming, take a deep breath and say something like, "OK, you do the first math problem and then I'll help you with the rest." Give them time to consider these words. You might want to physically move away from your child. When you see them begin to work, move closer and say something positive. Sometimes, an overwhelmed child just needs time to process how to move forward.

How to Reduce Homework Stress: Next Steps

- **Free Download:** Top 5 Homework Frustrations — and Fixes for Each
- **Learn:** 15 Tips for Reducing Homework Stress & Completion Time
- **Read:** The ADHD Homework System We Swear By

Beverly Holden Johns is a learning and behavior specialist. For 40 years, she has worked with public school students who have learning disabilities and emotional/behavioral disorders.

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

Madisonian:

- Article by Superintendent every other week