Winterset Community School District

# BEACON

WINTERSET, IOWA FEBRUARY 2026

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

As we move into the heart of the winter season, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to live in a community that truly values its youth. In Winterset, we often talk about our "Profile of a Graduate" and our mission to ensure every student is college, career, and life-ready. While our teachers work tirelessly to provide authentic learning experiences in the classroom, we know that the most significant factor in a child's success is the partnership between the school and home.

The Power of Partnership

Research consistently shows that when parents are involved in their child's education, students perform at higher levels, attend school more regularly, and develop stronger confidence. Involvement doesn't always have to mean a formal meeting; it starts with the small things:

Daily Conversations: Asking about a specific project or a new concept learned that day.

Reading Together: Encouraging literacy habits that last a lifetime.

Supporting School Events: Showing up for our fine arts, athletics, and academic showcases.

Your presence and interest send a powerful message to your child that their education is a priority.

Navigating the Digital Frontier: Tools vs. Distractions

Lately, there has been a lot of discussion (and even legislative proposals) regarding technology bans for students. At WCSD we believe in a balanced, common-sense approach.

We view technology as a tool - not a teacher. Our students must be digitally literate to thrive in the modern workforce. However, we also recognize that technology can be a distraction and that excessive screen time can negatively impact student well-being.

Our goal is for students to use technology for active, creative learning - not just passive consumption.

**Uniquely Human: Our Profile of a Graduate**

While technology will continue to change, the skills our students need to succeed remain timeless.



Our Profile of a Graduate focuses on uniquely human skills that no computer can replicate:

### February Monthly Highlights

2/25: High School Conferences (3:30-7:30)

2/26: PK Parent Informational Meeting

**Critical Thinking & Problem Solving:** **Evaluating** information with discernment and finding creative solutions.

**Effective Communication:** Building real relationships and conveying nuance through authentic interaction.

**Collaboration:** Working together with empathy and respect to achieve a common goal.

**Character & Attitude:** Modeling a growth mindset and persevering through adversity.

Regardless of whether a student chooses a trade, the military, or a four-year degree, these "soft skills" are what will set them apart in a world filled with automation.

**Tips for Home:** Setting Digital Boundaries

We encourage families to establish healthy digital habits at home:

Open Dialogue: Regularly talk with your children about what they are doing online and who they are interacting with.

Establish "Tech-Free" Zones: Consider keeping meal times or the hour before bed free from screens to promote family connection and better sleep.

Model the Way: Our children often learn more from what we do than what we say. Modeling responsible device use is one of the best ways to teach it.

Thank you for your continued support and for being such vital partners in our mission to empower every student towards personal excellence and lifelong success.

Yours in Service,

*Justin M. Gross*

Superintendent

Winterset Community School District

HAPPY VALENTINES' DAY BUT...

No deliveries of flowers,balloons, etc. will be accepted at anytime, including THE DAY BEFORE Valentine's Day. Any deliveries will need to be picked up in the office by parent/guardian.

# 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.

# WINTERSET ELEMENTARY CONCERT SCHEDULE

## *MAY 2026*

| | |
|---|---|
| MON 4TH | **3rd Grade Music Concert**<br>**7:00 PM**<br>**HENRY C. MILLER AUDITORIUM, Winterset, IA** |
| TUES 5TH | **2nd Grade Music Concert**<br>**7:00 PM**<br>**HENRY C. MILLER AUDITORIUM, Winterset, IA** |
| WED 6TH | **1st Grade Music Concert**<br>**7:00 PM**<br>**HENRY C. MILLER AUDITORIUM, Winterset, IA** |
| MON 12TH | **Kindergarten Music Concert**<br>**7:00 PM**<br>**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.

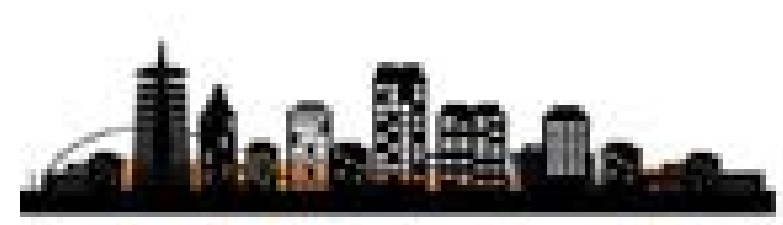


**Send your adult size t-shirts with your child to school or drop off at the Administration Office (303 Wambold Dr.) between 7:30AM- 4:00 PM from 1/12-1/23.**

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.**

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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.***

## HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCES TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH FROM 3:30-7:30PM

### Registration for Courses

As we prepare for next year's course registration we want to emphasize the importance of collaboration between our school team, students and families. Your input plays a vital role in ensuring that students make thoughtful course selection. Proper course selection and sequence is very important to a student's success in high school and beyond. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### FAFSA




When it comes to money for your education, it's easy as… 1, 2, 3. Applying for financial aid is fast and easy with the online Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Visit studentaid.gov or see Ms. Erickson or Ms. Slagter in the Guidance Center. For student financial aid information, eligibility criteria, and the various student aid programs, you can call toll-free 1-800-4FED-AID.

Information is available on the Guidance Page of WHS Website. Most applications on AppCentri are part of our local scholarships and are due March 1st. Late entries will not be accepted.




MidAmerican Energy Company is currently accepting applications for our highly sought-after High School Internship Program for the summer 2025. The Internship provides students with valuable exposure to a professional work environment within the energy industry, making it a highly beneficial addition to any resume.
For details about the internship and instructions on how to apply, see our job posting at Intern-High-School-Des Moines, IA.
Applicants will need to attach a short essay and letter of recommendation. Application deadline is March 7th at midnight.
For any general questions regarding this opportunity email HSinternship@midamerican.com

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

Student- View Scholarship Program is offering over $13,000 worth of scholarships to high school seniors who plan to attend a four-year college, community/junior college or career school and is open to all students regardless of academic achievement or financial need. The program includes
One $10,000 scholarship
Two $1,000 scholarships
Three $500 scholarships
It is quick and easy to apply. No minimum SAT/ACT score or grade point average, no essay required, and no lengthy application forms or application fees. Simply go to www.student-view.com and complete a 15-20 min application survey about colleges in your area. Deadline April 23rd, 2026.
If you have any questions, feel free to email contact@studentinsights.com or call 724-903-0439.

Heartland Business Systems is excited to share our Scholarship Opportunity for high school seniors. The scholarship is being offered to seniors planning to continue their education in the IT field. Up to four recipients will be eligible to receive $2,500 to put towards continuing education. Payment will be made directly to the institution the recipient is attending. Students must have a 3.5 minimum GPA and intend to continue education at an accredited two-four year university or technical school with an intended major in an information technology/field. Must submit a copy of your high school transcript. To apply visit
https://recruiting.paylocity.com/recruiting/jobs/Details/3818126/HEARTLAND-BUSINESS-SYSTEMS-LLC/2026-Heartland-Business-Systems-Scholarship Deadline- March 27th

Iowa Golf Association Foundation awards $2,000 Ann Griffel Scholarships available to high school senior girls who intend to further their education at an Iowa institution of higher learning, whether a college, university or trade school. The Iowa Golf Association Foundation was established to preserve the game and develop more programs to promote the future of golf in Iowa. The scholarships are awarded based on academic performance, extracurricular activities and leadership qualities, not on golf accomplishments or ability. To apply - https://iowagolf.org/2025-griffel-app/ Deadline- Sunday, March 31st.

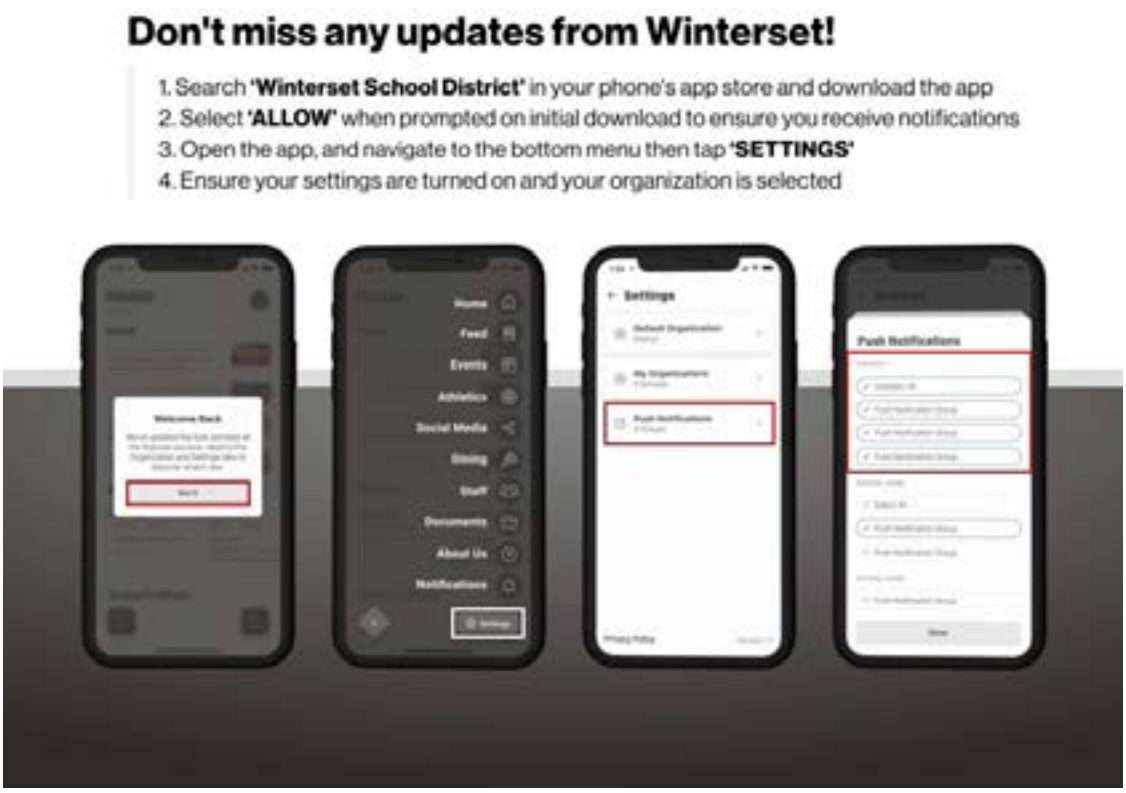
## Loans

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.

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

The next ACT testing at Winterset is April 11th with a registration deadline of March 6th (March 24th with late fee). Below you will find a link to information about a special offer your student may use to receive discounted access to an online ACT and/or SAT study guide to help students prepare for the ACT and/ or SAT test. This program is offered through the National Federation of State School Associations (NFHS). Professional athletes and other organizations fund the program. The cost of a standard ACT or SAT study program is usually $350, but through this program , each is available for $20.00, which covers licensing, registration, customer support, shipping, or online access fees.
The link below provides ordering information and additional information about all programs. The online program or DVD can be ordered using a credit card or check.
www.eknowledge.com/IAHSA

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)



# FEBRUARY ATHLETIC CALENDAR

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

## HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

| DATE | TIME | LEVEL | OPPONENT | SITE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 BOYS BASKETBALL

| DATE | TIME | LEVEL | OPPONENT | SITE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Feb 2 | 4:15 PM | 7th | NP | Winterset MS |
| | | 8th | NP | NP MS |
| Feb 5 | 4:15 PM | 7th | ADM | Winterset JH |
| | | 8th | ADM | ADM HS South |
| Feb 9 | 4:15 PM | 7th | BF | BF JH |
| | | 8th | BF | Winterset JH |
| Feb 10 | 4:15 PM | 7th | Gilbert | Winterset MS |
| | 4:30 PM | 8th | Gilbert | Gilbert MS |
| Feb 17 | 4:15 PM | 7th | Boone | Boone MS |
| | | 8th | Boone | Winterset JH |
| Feb 19 | 4:15 PM | 7th | Carlisle | Carlisle MS |
| | | 8th | Carlisle | Winterset JH |
| Feb 23 | 4:15 PM | 7th | Norwalk | Winterset JH |
| | | 8th | Norwalk | Norwalk MS |
| Feb 24 | 4:15 PM | 7th | Perry | Perry MS |
| | | 8th | Perry | Winterset JH |
| Feb 26 | 4:15 PM | 7th | Carlisle | Winterset JH |
| | | 8th | Carlisle | Carlisle MS |

## JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS WRESTLING

| DATE | TIME | LEVEL | OPPONENT | SITE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tue, Feb3 | 4:15 PM | 7/8 | Gilbert | Gilbert |
| Thu, Feb 5 | 4:15 PM | 7/8 | TOURNEY | ADM |
| Tue, Feb 17 | 4:30 PM | 7/8 | TOURNEY | NP |

## HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

| DATE | TIME | LEVEL | OPPONENT | SITE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Feb 2 | 5:00 pm | JV-B | DCG | DC-G |
| Feb 3 | 11 am | V-B | Dual Reg | TBD |
| Feb 4-6 | | TBA | GirlsState Tournament | |
| Feb 7 | TBD | V-B | Dual State | Corralville |
| Feb 14 | 11 am | V-B | District Tourney | TBD |
| Feb18-21 | | TBA | Boys State Tournament | |

## WHS HUSKY HELP DAY DATE: MAY 12, 2026

Please contact jgibbons@winterse.k12.ia.us with questions or donations

## 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
Join your friends and come watch a family friendly movie at the library starting at 1:30 p.m. on the above dates! Free popcorn included!
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
GAME ON!
MONDAYS FROM 3 - 5
XBOX 360 | WII | NINTENDO SWITCH | BOARD GAMES
FREE - NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED
WINTERSET
PUBLIC LIBRARY
123 North 2nd Street, Winterset, IA
(515)-462-1731

# POETRY SLAM

## WHEN: MARCH 13,2026

**FROM 1:00-2:00**

## WHERE: 5TH GRADE HOMEROOMS

Families are invited to join us as our 5th graders proudly perform original poems they created during our poetry unit! Throughout the unit, students explored poetry and created their own original poems. Each student has written a poem about a place that feels like home or something that brings them joy. They are excited to share their work with a live audience.

All visitors will need to check in at the front office before attending the performance.

If you plan to attend, please let your child's homeroom teacher know.
If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to reach out to your student's teachers. We look forward to celebrating their creativity with you!



# 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 Warnke

DEC 1: Northern Lights, Jess Lancil

Cultivating Connections

M·C·F·E·E

MADISON COUNTY conservation

**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.

**WWW.MADISONCOUNTYPARKS.COM**




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

| AUGUST | | | | |
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| 31 | | | | |

| SEPTEMBER | | | | |
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| OCTOBER | | | | |
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| NOVEMBER | | | | |
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| DECEMBER | | | | |
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| JANUARY | | | | |
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| FEBRUARY | | | | |
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| MARCH | | | | |
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| APRIL | | | | |
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| MAY | | | | |
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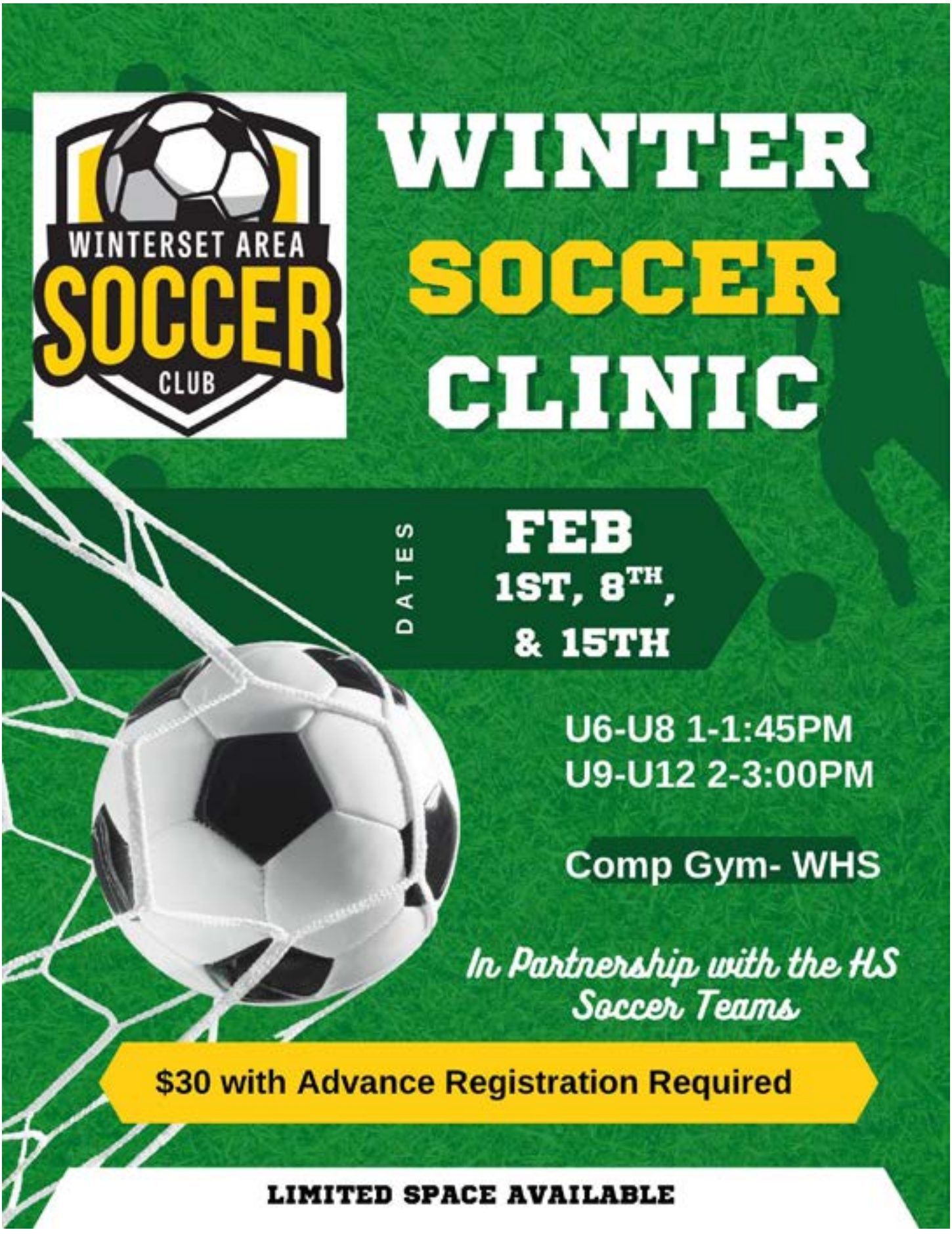
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **August** | 20 | Family Engagement Night |
| | 24 | First Day of School |
| **September** | 7 | No School - Labor Day |
| | 25 | Homecoming |
| | 30 | High School Parent Teacher Conferences |
| **October** | 15 & 22 | Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences |
| | 20 & 22 | Middle 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 (48 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 (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 |

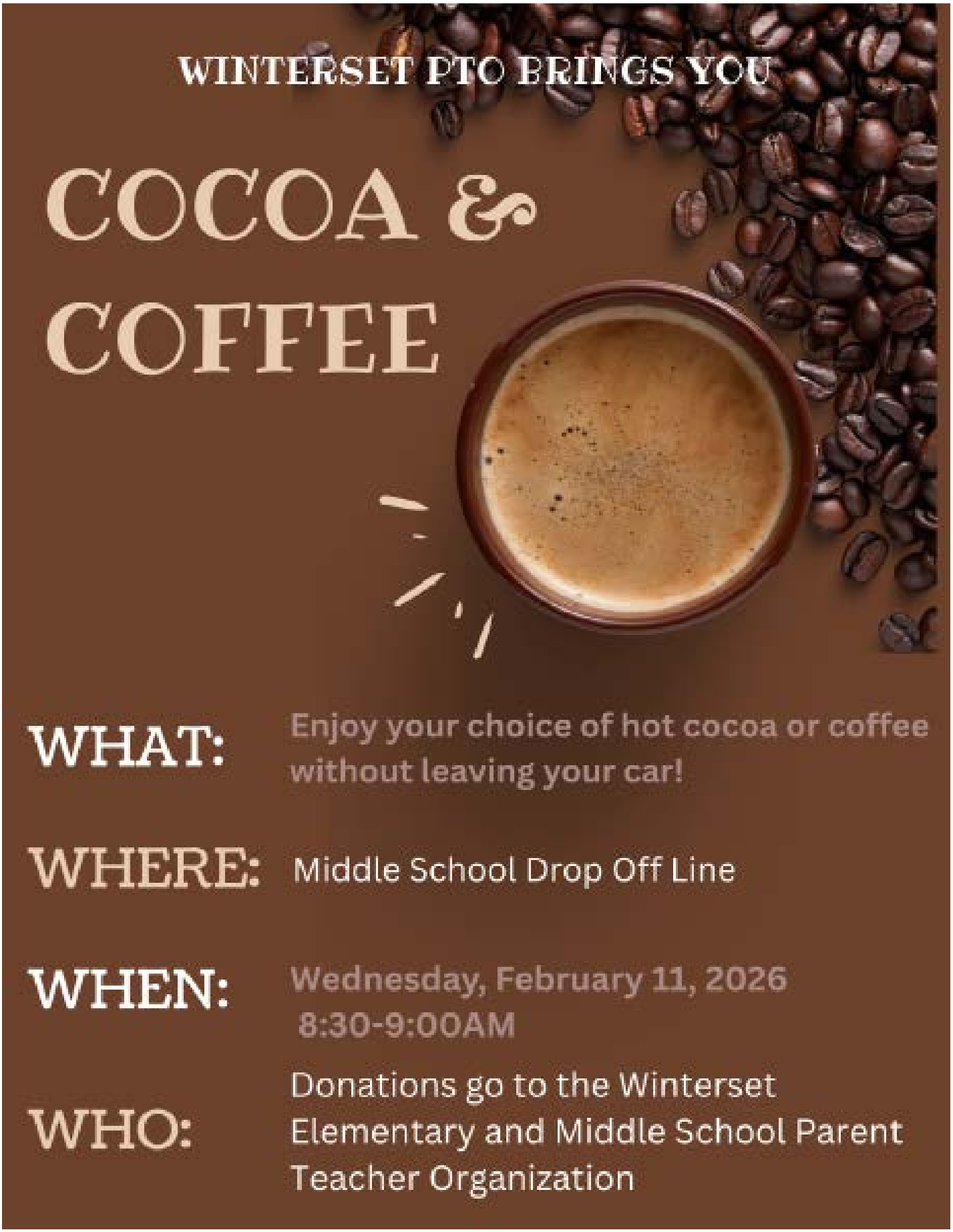
| Regular Start/Dismissal Times | |
|---|---|
| Elementary | 8:00 - 3:00 |
| Middle School | 8:00 - 3:05 |
| Junior High | 8:00 - 3:05 |
| High School | 8:00 - 3:05 |

| 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


WINTERSET PTO BRINGS YOU
COCOA & COFFEE
WHAT:
Enjoy your choice of hot cocoa or coffee without leaving your car!
WHERE:
Middle School Drop Off Line
WHEN:
Wednesday, February 11, 2026
8:30-9:00AM
WHO:
Donations go to the Winterset Elementary and Middle School Parent Teacher Organization

# Winterset Huskies Youth Speed and Agility Spring Break Clinic

The Winterset Boys and Girls track programs would like to invite **all current male and female 3rd 8th grade students** to participate in a speed and agility camp over spring break. This program is designed to help our young athletes improve their overall athletic ability by teaching specific techniques and participating in competitive drills. **This is meant to be for all athletes who are looking to improve in these areas,** not just for those interested or involved in track.

Each session will last approximately an hour and will include a warm-up, sprint technique development, speed/agility drills, and then competition/games. This 4-Day clinic will focus mainly on speed, acceleration, and change of direction.

**Location:** Winterset High School Competition Gym

**Dates:** March 16 - 19 (Monday-Thursday of Spring Break)

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

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

**Cost:** $30 per athlete. Register your athlete online my-site-101167-108530.square.site

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

Scan to Register




**Grab your glove, rally the family, and step up to the plate for a fun, family-friendly season of your hometown Huskies!**

**Celebrating our 60th Season**

Touch base with Winterset Little League on Facebook or at WintersetLL.com

# “The Secret to Communicating with Rejection-Sensitive Kids”

“Nonviolent communication (NVC) is an approach that children with ADHD and rejection sensitivity respond especially well to, in my view. As a parent with ADHD raising a child with ADHD, it’s an approach I try to embody every day.”

By Miranda J/Updated on November 19, 2025

We all have childhood memories of upsetting an adult — of knowing we’re in trouble for disappointing a grown-up in one way or another. We remember the weight of our guilt and feeling like we were bad to the core.

As much as we remember the sighs, yells, and criticisms, we also remember the moments we were treated with compassion and understanding. The adults in our lives may not have known it, but in those empathetic moments, they were applying the principles of nonviolent communication with us.

Nonviolent communication (NVC) is an approach that children with ADHD and rejection sensitivity respond especially well to, in my view. As a parent with ADHD raising a child with ADHD, it’s an approach I try to embody every day.

## What Is Nonviolent Communication?

NVC, created by Marshall Rosenberg, Ph.D., is designed to help people manage conflict (in relationships, work, school, etc.) and express themselves without placing blame, shame, or guilt on others.

NVC centers on four components:

- **Observation**: focusing on what you see or hear, not on evaluations or labels.
- **Feelings**: identifying and expressing your actual emotions, not thoughts disguised as feelings.
- **Needs**: recognizing that feelings arise from needs being met or unmet.
- **Requests**: asking for clear, specific actions to help meet needs.

*[Get This Free Download: How to Respond to Your Child’s Defiance]*

There is much more to NVC, but its most important principle is that it requires us to take off our “adult” hats and become equals with our children. As someone who was raised in a household where children were seen, not heard, I know this is easier said than done. But a child cannot learn respect until they experience respect. And children learn to communicate effectively by being communicated with effectively.

## 5 Ways to Practice Nonviolent Communication with ADHD Kids

Follow these steps to incorporate the principles of NVC into your daily interactions with your child and improve your relationship with them.

### 1. Use “I” statements.

Instead of: *Stop leaving your things everywhere! I tripped over your stuff again! Don’t be so lazy!*

Nonviolent reaction: *I see your shoes and backpack are on the floor. I feel frustrated when I trip over your things. I also get hurt. Please take the next minute to put your things away.*

### 2. Avoid hyperbole.

Try not to exaggerate your child's behaviors and avoid absolutes like "always" or "never." Be mindful of thoughts masquerading as feelings.

Instead of: *You always leave the fridge door open and walk away! You never listen to me when I ask you to be more careful. I feel like you just don't care.*

Nonviolent reaction: *I came home today and found the fridge door open. I am annoyed that some of our food is now spoiled, and we need to replace it.*

*[Read: Your Positive Parenting Toolkit Has Arrived]*

### 3. I feel __ *because...*

Connect your feelings to your needs to help your child see why something matters.

Instead of: *Why are you making so much noise? Can't you see that I'm trying to work?*

Nonviolent reaction: *I feel tense because I need to focus on my work but keep getting distracted by these noises. Would you lower your voice/tablet volume or move to another room so I can finish?*

### 4. Focus on responsibility, not blame.

Let's take it back to the open fridge door example of above.

*Instead of: The food is all spoiled and it's all your fault.*

*Nonviolent reaction: We'll need to buy fresh food. Can you help by contributing from your allowance?*

This principle is absolutely important for our rejection-sensitive children. Shifting from blame to responsibility reduces paralyzing shame and lets children focus on how they can make things better.

### 5. Let your child speak.

Even if they are whiny or hormonal. Even if they cry and seem irrational. Even if they blame everything else under the sun for their behavior, you must let your child speak. Your job is to listen and validate.

Instead of: *It's not my fault you don't get your homework done on time! If you can't speak to me with respect, then I don't want to speak to you at all.*

Nonviolent reaction: *I hear you saying you forget about your homework and could use a reminder. I also hear you saying that it's challenging to focus on more work after school. Let's come up with a plan so you don't fall behind or feel overwhelmed.*

Paraphrasing your child's words is extremely important. It calms children when they hear their own words echoed back to them with understanding. It shows them that they are worthy — because they are — of being heard.

## Nonviolent Communication: ADHD Parenting Resources

- **Free Download:** Conversation Starters for Stronger Parent-Child Bonds
- **Read:** The Power of Validation to Soothe Supersensors
- **Read:** Your Emotionally Reactive Child Needs Empathy — Not Punishment

Teens with ADHD

# Steps to Independence

## Thinking of your teen with ADHD as a "work in progress" will make this stage easier on both of you.

By Carol Brady, Ph.D.Updated on February 17, 2022

"I can't understand what happened to my child. We were so close, and now I either get argued with or ignored," said a parent who had just embarked on parenting a teenager.

During adolescence, the primary developmental tasks are to build a sense of self and work toward independence.

Teens with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are as keen as their peers to begin this exciting stage, but some ADHD traits — difficulty with time management and organization, a lag in maturity, and a reluctance to ask for help — can make the process more complicated for them, and for their parents.

During these years, emphasize open communication, be patient, and be sure to:

- **Teach life skills gradually.** By the time she reaches the teen years, both you and your child are probably used to your scheduling, organizing, and planning for her — not to mention getting her out of bed every day. Although it's time to step back, she won't become an adult overnight. You'll need to teach life skills consciously, step by step.

For example, you may want to switch your child from a weekly to a monthly allowance, and work with her to develop a plan for saving and spending. Your guidance will be appreciated when that special item is finally affordable.

*[How to Motivate a Teenager with ADHD]*

The teen with ADHD may also need more practice, and more specific instruction, when learning to drive. If you'd be too anxious a teacher, find a driving school. Studies have shown that proper ADHD treatment results in safer driving; if your teen takes meds, be sure she's taken her dose each time she gets behind the wheel.

- **Stay on top of your child's schedule.** Because impulsivity is an ADHD trait, your teen may make or change plans "in the moment." Don't let him fly off into a chaotic whirlwind on weekends and after school. Insist on knowing whom your teen is with and where they're going. Make sure rules ("Call to let us know where you'll be if your plans change") and consequences are clear, and stick to them.

One family with two teens made the rule that they would lose a half hour from their next night with friends if they did not "beat the clock." It took several trials, but, once they saw that their parents meant what they said, the teenagers got home on time.

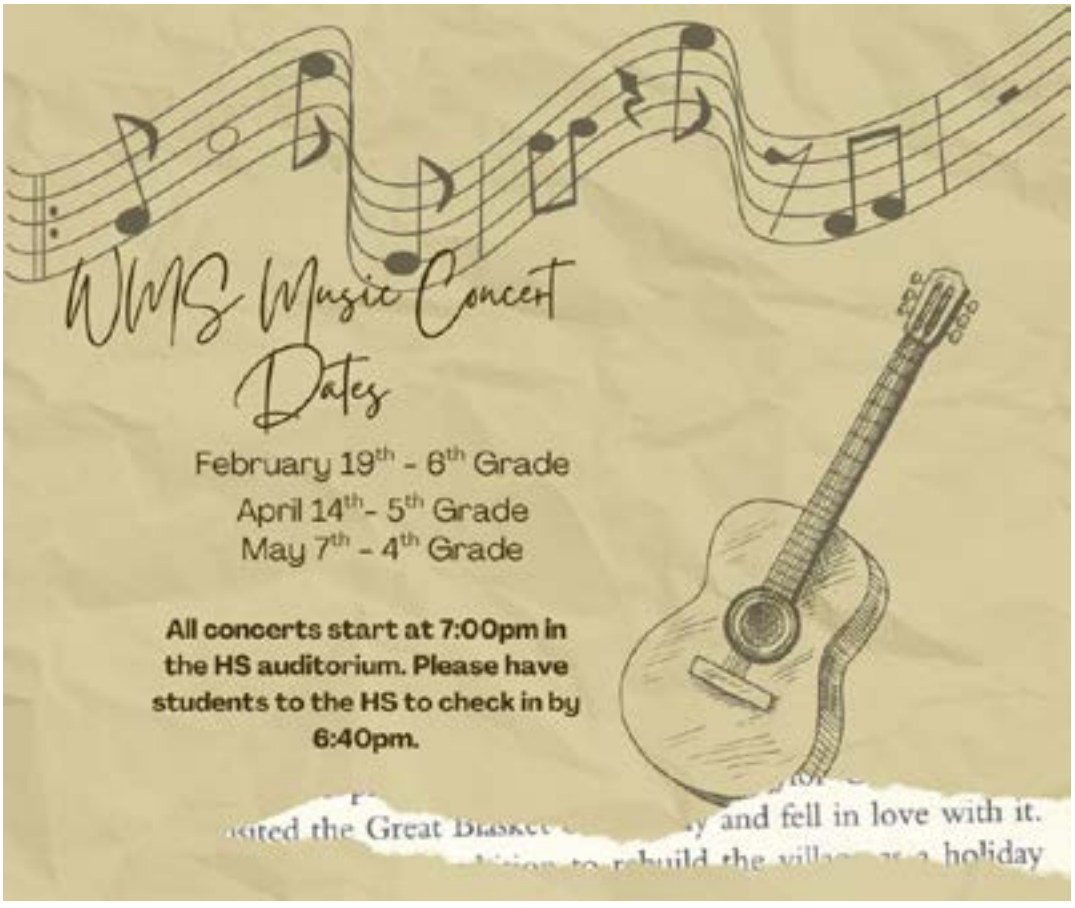
- **Help him understand when to ask for help.** John had misplaced all his homework from the night before, but would not allow his dad to write a note to the teacher or help him develop a plan to avoid this problem in the future. A discussion with his parents about ADHD helped John understand that organization was an area where he

typically ran into trouble, and that knowing when to ask for advice was being more "mature" than repeating the same mistakes.

*[Free Download: 8 Ways to Strengthen Your Teen's Executive Function Skills]*

Sue had accommodations set up for her at high school, but she began coming home with poor grades. Her parents discovered that she wasn't going to the teachers to place the requests for extended time. Sue was embarrassed about being "different" from the other students, but her parents explained that the accommodations would allow her to demonstrate her knowledge more accurately. Together, they developed a plan that would let Sue talk with her teachers discreetly. She'll use the same strategy when she's on her own at college.

- **Avoid overreactions to overreactions.** No matter how many rules you impose, or which precautions you take, at some point, you're going to ask your teenager, "What were you thinking?!" At moments like these, remember that the neurological system is not fully mature until the early twenties. Your teen is still a "work in progress." Reassure her, stay involved in her life, and know that the teen years will pass.



# 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