



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The month of April brings a unique energy to our schools. It's a season of final pushes - the home stretch of the academic year, the peak of spring activities, and the anticipation of graduation. While the end of the year is in sight, there is still important work ahead. My hope is that we continue striving to finish strong, while keeping our focus on what matters most: the connections we build with our students each and every day.

In Winterset, we take immense pride in our students' achievements. Whether it's a Division I rating in jazz choir, a personal

best on the track, or an impressive score on a state assessment, we celebrate the hard work and grit that define Husky Pride. At the same time, our administrative team has been engaged in a book study of *Never Enough* by Jennifer Breheny Wallace, which has prompted us to reflect on something even more foundational to student success than accolades or GPA.

That something is mattering.

In her book, Wallace explores the intense pressure students face in today's achievement-driven culture. She suggests that many young people feel their

value is conditional - tied to how well they perform. As a leadership team, we are intentionally asking: How do we ensure that each of our 1,600 students knows they matter to this district and this community, regardless of accomplishments?

This question is at the heart of our continued investment in *Capturing Kids' Hearts*. We know every student has unique talents and strengths, and through intentional relationship-building, we are creating meaningful connections with students every day.

So, what does it mean to "matter"?

At its core, mattering is the belief that you are seen, heard, and valued for who you are - not just for what you do. It lives at the intersection of feeling valued and adding value to others. This idea aligns closely with one of our strategic priorities: expanding self-worth

and connection to others.



When we consider our Profile of a Graduate, we aim to develop students who are college-, career-, and life-ready. Being truly "life-ready" requires more than academic or technical skills - it requires a strong sense of self-worth and meaningful relationships. Students who feel they only matter when they succeed may hesitate to take risks, struggle to persevere, and fear failure. In a world increasingly shaped by AI and automation, we know that human connection and a sense of belonging are irreplaceable.

As parents and

April Monthly Highlights

4/6 - No School

4/9 - Elementary Conferences (3:30-7:30)

4/16 - Middle School Student Led Showcase

4/29 - High School Conferences (3:30-7:30)

5/15/26- Online Registration Begins

educators, it can be easy to unintentionally emphasize the “next step” - the next grade, the next team, the next opportunity. I know I am guilty of this as a parent myself. But our mission calls us to support the whole child. We want our students to be critical thinkers and effective communicators, but also individuals of character who understand that their worth is inherent.

As we enter the final two months of the school year, I encourage our

students to finish strong, but let’s be clear about what that truly means. Finishing strong is about more than a final grade; it’s about:

Accountability:
Showing up and giving your best effort until the final bell

Kindness:
Supporting peers during a busy and sometimes stressful season

Growth Mindset:
Learning from challenges and using them to grow

To our parents, thank you for your continued

partnership. This month, I encourage you to focus conversations at home on the person, not just the performer. Ask what your child learned, who they helped, or how they handled a challenge rather than focusing solely on scores or outcomes.

When children know they matter unconditionally, they develop the confidence and resilience to achieve at even higher levels because they are not afraid to fail.

Let’s work together to make these final months a time of great achievement, but even more importantly, a time of meaningful connection.

Yours in Service,

Justin M. Gross

Superintendent

Winterset
Community
School District



Spring Cleaning?

CRISP will take donations of new or gently used Winter Gear.
This includes Coats, Boots, Snow Pants, & Insulated Gloves!

We are also accepting donations of new or gently used backpacks & new school supplies as we start to get ready for next school year.



Thank you for your generosity!

To schedule a donation drop off
please call or email our office.
CRISP: 515-462-9400
Email: crisp@familyresourcelink.org



March proved to be a significant month for the Best Buddies program, highlighted by meaningful celebrations centered on inclusion and friendship. During March 3–7, the club observed National Inclusion Awareness Week with daily themed activities designed to educate the school community while fostering understanding and appreciation for individuals with diverse abilities.

On March 24th, members participated in a spring coloring activity, providing an engaging opportunity for peer connection and creative expression.

Also, the club is pleased to announce an upcoming field trip to Can Play in Des Moines, scheduled for April 28th.

Finally, we are delighted to introduce Jenna Peacock as the Best Buddies president for the 2026–2027 school year. Her commitment to the program’s mission of fostering meaningful friendships across ability levels positions her well to lead the club with great enthusiasm!

Students interested in joining Best Buddies are encouraged to reach out to any of the club’s advisors and leaders: Lana McDonald (advisor), Morgan Vaughn (president), or Taylor Van Pelt (vice president).

WHS BEST BUDDIES UPDATE

March proved to be a meaningful month for the Best Buddies program, highlighted by special celebrations centered on inclusion and friendship. During March 3–7, the club observed National Inclusion Awareness Week with daily themed activities designed to educate the school community while fostering understanding and appreciation for individuals with diverse abilities.

On March 24th, members participated in a spring coloring activity, providing an engaging opportunity for peer connection and relaxing fun.

Also, the club is pleased to announce an upcoming field trip to Can Play in Des Moines, scheduled for April 28th. The students will participate in different gym and exercise experiences and go to lunch at McDonalds afterwards.

Finally, we are delighted to introduce Jenna Peacock as the Best Buddies president for the 2026–2027 school year. Her commitment to the program's mission of fostering meaningful friendships positions her to lead the club with great enthusiasm! Congratulations, Jenna!

Students interested in joining Best Buddies are encouraged to reach out top any of the club's advisors and leaders:

Lana McDonald (advisor), Morgan Vaughn (president), or Taylor Van Pelt (vice president).



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
7:00 PM
HENRY C. MILLER AUDITORIUM,
Winterset, IA**

**TUES
5TH**

**2nd Grade Music Concert
7:00 PM
HENRY C. MILLER AUDITORIUM,
Winterset, IA**

**WED
6TH**

**1st Grade Music Concert
7:00 PM
HENRY C. MILLER AUDITORIUM,
Winterset, IA**

**MON
12TH**

**Kindergarten Music Concert
7:00 PM
HENRY C. MILLER AUDITORIUM,
Winterset, IA**



WINTERSET FFA UPDATE

Winterset FFA members have been busy representing their chapter over the past several weeks while competing in Leadership Development Events (LDEs) at Sub-District and District contests. These competitions give students the opportunity to develop communication, leadership, and career skills while showcasing their knowledge of agriculture and the FFA organization. On February 17, eight Winterset FFA members traveled to Lenox to compete in the Sub-District Leadership Development Events. Then on March 7th in Denison members competed at Districts. Several additional members also participated in knowledge-based quizzes in preparation for the upcoming Iowa FFA State Convention. Sabrina Hill competed in Ag Broadcasting, receiving a Gold Rating and being selected as an Alternate for State. Lauryn Hornback, McKinley Kaysen, and Nora Mersberger placed Gold at both Sub-Districts and Districts advancing to State. Jackson Deppe placed Gold in Creed Speaking, along with Matthew Brakhane in Extemporaneous Speaking both advancing from both Sub-Districts and Districts onto State. Gary Lawrence competed in Ag Sales, receiving Gold and being selected as an Alternate to Districts. Mady Moren received a Bronze rating in Prepared Public Speaking. Many members competed in the Greenhand Quiz, the results are as follows: Jackson Deppe - Gold, McKinley Kaysen - Gold (3rd at Districts), Owen Sheridan - Silver, and Mady Moren - Silver. Nora Mersberger placed 1st with a Gold in the Discovery Quiz at both Sub-Districts and Districts. Reiland Rasmussen placed 8th - Gold, Creed Hirsch placed 8th - Gold, and Evan Lauer placed 13th with a Gold Rating. Kash Heatherington placed 1st with a Gold Rating at Sub-Districts, 5th at Districts in Farm Business Management and Cael Hirsch placed 2nd with a Gold Rating at Sub-Districts and Silver at Districts. At Districts Erica Donielson, McCoy Gray, Chelsie Karp, Emilie Karp, and Brooklyn Kelley competed in Ag CSI receiving a Bronze. Lauryn Hornback received Silver for her Secretary's Book and Denali Coffman received a Bronze for her Reporters Scrapbook. Winterset FFA members demonstrated strong leadership and dedication throughout the competitions. The chapter is proud of the hard work and accomplishments of these students and looks forward to cheering on the teams advancing to the Iowa FFA State Convention. The Winterset FFA Chapter has many new things in store over the next few months! Members have been working hard planting seeds, and caring for young sprouts. Later this spring we will have vegetables, plants and hanging baskets for sale for our annual plant sale! We have a larger variety and amount available than ever before! Our annual banquet is on May 3rd at the Jackson Building, where members are recognized for their accomplishments over the course of the last year, and the new officer team is installed. Thank you to everyone who supported the chapter during National Ag Week. We can't wait for a great next few months!

In Blue and Gold,
2025-2026 Reporter
Denali Coffman



Madison County Food Resources

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

Community Meals

Winterset Senior Citizen Center (Congregate Meals)

1006 N. John Wayne Drive
Winterset, IA 50273
(515) 462-1334

Earlham Community Center (Congregate Meals)

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

United Methodist Church Meal

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

Food Pantries

Earlham Food Pantry

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

Earlham Mobile Food Pantry

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

I-35 Backpack Program

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

Food sent home with students for the weekend.

I-35 School Pantry

(641) 765-4818

rdickinson@roadrunnerpride.org
www.roadrunnerpride.org/page/roadrunner-family-supports

MATURA/Madison County Outreach

1724 N John Wayne Dr.
Winterset Iowa 50273
(515) 462-4704
(515) 462-5838 (fax)
madisonoutreach@maturaia.org
www.maturacommunityaction.com

Monday-Friday from 9:00am-4:00pm
LIHEAP, Food Pantry, thrift store

The Cupboard at New Bridge Church

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

St. Joseph Catholic Church Pantry

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

Winterset First United Methodist Church Pantry

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

Winterset Mobile Food Pantry

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

Winterset School Pantry

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

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

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

(515) 282-5800 (Main office)

Call the office to make an appointment.

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



WHS Guidance Department

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

All students have registered for next year's classes. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact their school counselor.

Mrs. Erickson (A-J) kerickson@winterset.k12.ia.us

Ms. Slagter (K-Z) sslagter@winterset.k12.ia.us

ACT's at WHS:

June 13 (deadline to register without late fee is May 8th) May 27th w/ a late fee.

Students can register for the test at actstudent.org

When creating an account, do NOT use the student's Winterset email address, as it will not accept outside emails. Please use a different, personal email.

If you would like them to take it at the High School, please have them sign up for the PAPER version.

Look A-Head at Senior Activities:

April 10- Cap/Gown Delivery- 11am in the cafeteria

May 6- Senior meeting

May 08- Decision & Donuts @ 8 am in the cafeteria

May 12- Husky Help Day

May 13- Senior Awards Program

May 20- Graduation Practice @ 9:05 am in competition gym

May 24- Commencement*

*Reminder as we get closer to graduation that seniors must have all fees paid in order to participate.

Local Loan Opportunities

Winterset graduates should be aware that our school is privileged to have two well-funded loan programs.

The Lillard-Miller and Eva Rogan Funds were established to help students finance post high school education. The funds are financed through private contributions. Each academic year, a student can only be awarded ONE scholarship loan for \$1,000 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.

SCHOLARSHIPS- All scholarships are listed here, or on the guidance webpage under "Senior Central" and Scholarships.

Farmers Electric Cooperative Scholarship- For high school seniors whose parents are members and reside in FEC's service territory. Deadline April 3rd.

Lorimor Lions Club Scholarship- This scholarship is for any graduation senior that is planning to attend a college, university, nursing, trade school, commercial, or vocational education in an ac-

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

credited school operated within the state of Iowa. Amount of the scholarship is \$300.00. For more information and to apply, please visit the guidance webpage. Deadline April 4th.

Raccoon Valley Radio Scholarship- One year business and broadcasting scholarship, awarded to an Iowa high school graduating senior. Deadline April 6th.

Delta Kappa Gamma- Awarded to an Adair or Madison Co student pursuing a post-secondary education in education. Deadline April 15th.

Farmers & Merchants State Bank Scholarship- Recipient is selected based on scholastic ability, extracurricular activities, community involvement, etc. Deadline April 15th.

Madison County Pork Producers Association- Open to students residing in Madison County will be up to four (4) \$500 scholarships. These may be awarded to high school seniors, or to students presently enrolled in a two-year, four-year college, or trade school. Deadline April 15th.

Winterset Quarterback Club Scholarship- Open to students who participated in football all four years of high school and plan to participate in football at the college level. Please see the application for all eligibility requirements. Deadline April 15th.

Melvin Bricker Scholarship is for a graduating senior from Winterset High School who has consistently demonstrated commitment to the high school wrestling program and its ideals of sportsmanship, determination, hard-work, and loyalty to the program and the School. You may use this scholarship at any accredited college, university, community college, junior college or business or trade school of your choice. See Coach Jensen or the guidance website for applications. Deadline May 1st.

Gary Ridout Sr. Scholarship- The Husky Mat Club offers a scholarship for seniors who have been involved in the WHS wrestling program and will be wrestling as a freshman in college. See Coach Jensen or the guidance website for applications. Deadline May 1st.

The Charles & Lois Taylor Scholarship- The 2019 Applications are available at the First Christian Church office. First Christian Church has awarded over \$1,600,000 in scholarships to more than 1300 applicants since 1989. Requirements are: resident of Madison County and graduate of Madison County Schools. Financial Need is a prime consideration. Deadline May 1st.

Smarter Saner World- Four annual scholarships awarded to graduating seniors from Winterset OR Madison County pursuing a post-secondary education in STEM or Mental Health. See the application for more information. Deadline June 30th.



SPRING ATHLETIC CALENDAR

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

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER

DATE	TIME	LEVEL	OPPONENT	SITE
Mar 31	5:30 PM	JV/V	Creston	Winterset
Apr 2	7:00 PM	V	Underwood	Underwood
Apr 3	5:30 PM	JV/V	Harlan	Earlham
Apr 6	5:30 PM	JV/V	North Polk	NP
Apr 7	5:30 PM	JV/V	Carlisle	Carlisle
Apr 9	7:00 PM	V	Centerville	Winterset
Apr 14	5:30 PM	JV/V	Perry	Winterset
Apr 16	6:00 PM	V	Van Meter	Van Meter
Apr 17	5:30 PM	JV/V	Carroll	Carroll
Apr 20	5:30 PM	JV/V	Ballard	Ballard
Apr 21	7:00 PM	V	Greene County	Winterset
Apr 24	4:30 PM	JV/V	Gilbert	Gilbert
April 28	7:00 PM	V	Clarke	Clarke
Apr 30	4:30 PM	JV/V	ADM	Winterset
May 4	5:30 PM	JV/V	DM Christian	Winterset
May 5	5:30 PM	JV/V	Boone	Winterset
May 12	5:30 PM	JV/V	Bondurant-Farrar	B-F
May 19	7:00 PM	VSubstate	TBA	

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER

DATE	TIME	LEVEL	OPPONENT	SITE
Apr 6	5:30 PM	JV/V	North Polk	Winterset
Apr 9	5:30 PM	V	Centerville	Winterset
Apr 10	5:30 PM	JV/V	Indianola	Winterset
Apr 13	5:30 PM	JV/V	Carroll	Winterset
Apr 14	5:30 PM	JV/V	Perry	Perry
Apr 16	4:30 PM	V	Van Meter	Van Meter
Apr 17	5:30 PM	JV/V	Creston	Creston
Apr 20	5:30 PM	JV/V	Ballard	Winterset
Apr 21	5:30 PM	V	Greene County	Winterset
Apr 24	4:30 PM	JV/V	Gilbert	Gilbert
April 28	5:30 PM	V	Clarke	Clarke
Apr 30	4:30 PM	JV/V	ADM	Winterset
May 4	5:30 PM	JV/V	DM Christian	DM
May 8	5:30 PM	JV/V	Boone	Boone
May 11	4:45 / 6:15	JV/V	DM East	DM East
May 12	5:30 PM	JV/V	Bondurant-Farrar	Winterset
May 18	5:30 PM	JV/V	Carlisle	Winterset
May 28	TBD	V	Regionals	TBD

BOYS HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

DATE	TIME	LEVEL	OPPONENT	SITE
Mar 30	4:30 PM	Coed V	Bondurant-Farrar	Bondurant
Apr 2	4:30 PM	Coed V	Ogden	Ogden
Apr 3	4:30 PM	V	Winterset Invite	Winterset
Apr 7	4:30 PM	Coed V	ADM	Adel
Apr 9	4:30 PM	Coed V	Van Meter	Van Meter
Apr 11	TBD	V	Jim Duncan Relays	Drake Stadium
Apr 16	4:30 PM	JV/V	ADM	Adel
Apr 21	4:30 PM	V	Madrid	Madrid
Apr 22-25	TBA	V	Drake Relays	Drake
Apr 23	4:30 PM	Coed V	Winterset Invite	Winterset
Apr 28	4:15 PM	V	Carlisle	Carlisle
April 30	4:15 PM	JV/V	Bondurant-Farrar	Bondurant
May 6	4:00 PM	Coed V	RRC Meet	ADM
May 14	4:00 PM	Coed V	Districts	TBA

GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

DATE	TIME	LEVEL	OPPONENT	SITE
Mar 30	4:30 pm	Coed V	Bondurant-Farrar	Bondurant
Apr 2	4:30 PM	Coed V	Ogden	Ogden
Apr 7	4:30 PM	Coed V	ADM	Adel
Apr 9	4:30 PM	Coed V	Van Meter	Van Meter
Apr 11	TBD	V	Jim Duncan Relays	Drake Stadium
Apr 13	4:30 PM	Girls	Creston	Creston
Apr 16	4:30 PM	JV/V	Ogden	Ogden
Apr 20	4:30 PM	JV/V	Bondurant-Farrar	Bondurant
Apr 22-25		TBDV	Drake Relays	Drake
Apr 23	4:30 PM	Coed V	Winterset	Winterset
Apr 27	4:30 PM	V	Winterset	Winterset
Apr 30	4:15 PM	V	Carlisle	Carlisle
May 6	4:00 PM	V	RRC Meet	ADM
May 14	4:00 PM	V	State Qualifying	TBA

HIGH SCHOOL GOLF

DATE	TIME	LEVEL	OPPONENT	SITE
Apr 7	4:00 PM	Girls	JV/V Van Meter	Winterset
Apr 9	12:00 PM	Boys	JV/V Pella	Pella
Apr 13	4:00 PM	Girls	JV/V ADM/Carlisle	ADM
Apr 13	4:00 PM	Boys	JV/V ADM/Carlisle	Shady Oaks
Apr 14	12:00 PM	Coed	V Creston/Clarke	Creston
Apr 16	4:00 PM	Boys	JV/V Carroll/B-F	BF (Terrace Hills)
Apr 16	4:00 PM	Girls	JV/V Carroll/B-F	Carroll
Apr 20	1:00 PM	Girls	V Winterset Tourn	Winterset
Apr 23	1:00 PM	Girls	V Oskaloosa Tourn	Oskaloosa
Apr 27	4:00 PM	Girls	JV/V Ballard/Carlisle	Winterset
Apr 27	4:00 PM	Boys	JV/V Ballard/Carlisle	Ballard
Apr 28	1:00 PM	Boys	V Oskaloosa Tourn	Oskaloosa

ADMISSION PRICES

**BUY TICKETS ONLINE ON TICKET SPICKET
IN ADVANCE OF THE GAME**

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

THE LOVE OF THREE ORANGES

BY HILLARY DEPIANO



MAY 1ST AT 5:00PM
CITY PARK NORTH
PAVILION

MAY 2ND AT 5:00PM
MIDDLE RIVER PARK
PAVILION

BRING YOUR OWN
SEATING

THIS IS A FREE-WILL DONATION
PERFORMANCE. SUGGESTED \$8 DONATION

THIS PRODUCTION WAS MADE WITH
ARRANGEMENTS BY CONCORD THEATRICALS
ON BEHALF OF PLAYSCHRIPTS



2026-2027

Online REGISTRATION

Opening May 15th!

Returning students must be registered
through the Parent Portal

New students will register via the district website
www.winterset.k12.ia.us

CALL WITH QUESTIONS
515-462-2718

WINTERSET YOUTH BOYS BASKETBALL CAMP SUMMER 2026

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

Four-Day Instructional Camp

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

Session 1 9AM-11AM is for boys **going into 2nd-5th grades**

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

COST: \$50

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

REGISTRATION: <https://winterset-husky-hoops.square.site/>

****Be sure to register your son before Monday, July 6th to guarantee your son a t-shirt!****

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



Parental Permission-please read carefully before Registering

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

BEST Shooting and Footwork Course Winterset



The Midwest Leader in Shot and Footwork Fundamentals

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

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

Girls & Boys grades 7-12 in the 2026/2027 school year:

**April 11 (9-10am), May 9 (9-10am), June 5 (1:30-2:30pm) June 26
(9-10am) July 9 (9-10am), July 17 (9-10am)**

Girls & Boys grades 3-6 in the 2026/2027 school year:

**April 11 (10-11am), May 9 (10-11am), June 5 (2:30-3:30pm) June 26
(10-11am) July 9 (10-11am), July 17 (10-11am)**

Where: HS gym

Fee – \$100

Name _____ Grade Entering _____

Email _____

Waiver and Release Statement I, hereby waive and release any and all claims, demands, and causes of action which I may have or anyone may have through me, against BEST, its instructors and/or Winterset schools, for any injuries that may incur arising out of in any way at the Winterset schools during the months of April, May, June & July, 2026. I further understand and acknowledge that BEST or Winterset schools shall not have any responsibility for lost, damaged, or stolen property.

Student _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Turn forms into Coach Henry, Coach Young or in the High School Office. OR bring to camp April 11

2026 WINTERSET 3on3 BASKETBALL LEAGUE (5th-8th Grade Boys and Girls)



The Winterset High School Boys and Girls Basketball Coaches invite your son and/or daughter to join us for our **3 on 3 League**. This will be for **5th-8th grade** (2026-27 school year) boys and girls. We believe this League will be a great opportunity for the players to improve their skills, learn concepts we use in our high school programs, and have fun. Teams will be randomly picked each week. The sessions will be held at Winterset High School in the Competition Gym. The League will be on **Wednesdays** starting May 27th and end on June 24th.

SCHEDULE:

May: 27th

June: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

Who: Incoming 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade boys and girls (2026-27 school year)

Time: 5:00-6:30pm

Location: Winterset High School (Competition Gym)

COST: \$50 (One time payment) or \$10 per session (Cash or Check made out to Husky Hoops)

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

REGISTRATION LINK: <https://winterset-husky-hoops.square.site/>

If you have any questions about the sessions, please call Boys Head Coach Josh Henry at (515) 238-3945 or email at jhenry@winterset.k12.ia.us or Girls Head Coach Matt Young at (515) 205-2957 or email at mtyoung@winterset.k12.ia.us

Parental Permission-please read carefully before Registering

I give my son and/or daughter permission to participate in the Summer 3on3 League. I understand that while basketball is generally a safe activity, there is a risk of both minor and serious injuries. I assume full responsibility for the cost of any basketball-related injuries and clear the summer program and its employees of any liability related to the reasonable and practical operation of the camp.

2026 Winterset Football Skills Camp

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

Dates: Tuesday July 12th & Thursday July 14th

Grades: 5th - 12th (Based on Fall 2026)

Registration: REGISTER as able.

Camp Fee: There is no cost.

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

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

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

Camp Emphasis: Fundamentals and scheme installations

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

Send Form to: Winterset High School or Bring to the first day of camp.

Contact information: Winterset Football *Winterset High School* 720 Husky Drive Winterset, IA 50273
zsweeney@winterset.k12.ia.us

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

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

Athlete: _____ **Grade:** _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ **Date:** _____ **Cell #** _____

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



**WINTERSET
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

March 19, 2026

April 16, 2026

May 21, 2026

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

COME BUILD WITH US!

A poster for "Friday Flicks" with an orange background. At the top, the title "Friday Flicks" is in large, bold, black letters. Below it, the text "Friday Movies:" is followed by four dates: "October 24, 2025", "January 16, 2026", "March 27, 2026", and "May 29, 2026". To the left of the dates are illustrations of a movie clapperboard, a bucket of popcorn, and a pair of 3D glasses. To the right is a large black movie camera on a tripod. In the center, there is a logo for "WINTERSET PUBLIC LIBRARY" featuring a stylized tree. Below the logo, the text reads: "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." At the bottom, it says "No registration for this event."

Friday Flicks

Friday Movies:
October 24, 2025
January 16, 2026
March 27, 2026
May 29, 2026

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.

A poster for "Game On!" with a green background. At the top, it says "RECOMMENDED AGES 10 AND UP" and "PARTICIPANTS BEHAVIOR MUST FOLLOW LIBRARY POLICY". The title "GAME ON!" is in large, bold, black letters. Below it, the text "MONDAYS FROM 3 - 5" is in bold. Then, it lists "XBOX 360 | WII | NINTENDO SWITCH | BOARD GAMES". Below that, it says "FREE - NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED". At the bottom, there is a large black illustration of a video game controller. To the left of the controller is a logo for "WINTERSET PUBLIC LIBRARY" featuring a stylized tree. To the right of the controller, the address "123 North 2nd Street, Winterset, IA" and phone number "(515)-462-1731" are listed.

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

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**



Winterset Paw Pantry



Summer Dates!

June 11th

July 9th

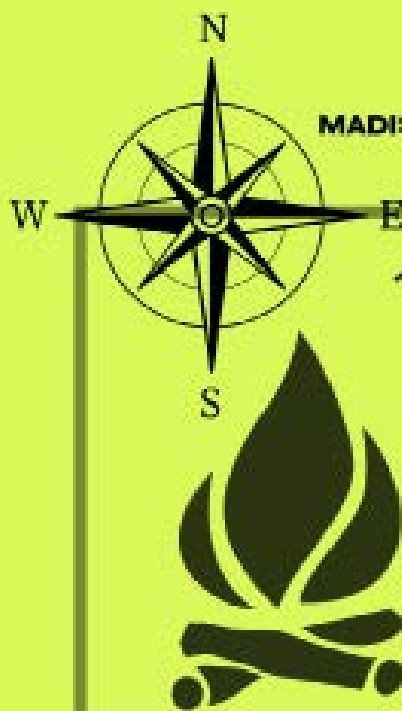
August 13th

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



LIVE WILD

MADISON COUNTY CONSERVATION CENTER
PAMMEL PARK



2026 SPEAKER SERIES

Madison County Conservation Center, Pammel Park

JAN 6: Wilderness,
Tom Moss

FEB 3: Sasquatch,
Mike Havlik

MARCH 3: Honeybees,
Andrew Joseph

APRIL 7: Wildlife Rescue,
Jenni Boonjakualui

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 Wamke

DEC 1: Northern Lights,
Jess Lencil



Cultivating Connections



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

2026

SUMMER CAMPS



MYCOUNTPARKS.COM

CRITTERS OF THE CORN STATE

JUNE 9-10 | 9-11:30AM

Ages: 5-7

\$25/child

Get ready to go wild in the heartland! Critters of the Corn State is a summer camp designed for young naturalists who want to discover the incredible animals that share our home. From the secret lives of forest predators to the amazing residents of our wetlands, we're peeling back the stalks to reveal Iowa's wildest side. The adventure is calling — are you ready to find the critters in the corn?



CRAZY CREATURES

JUNE 16-17 | 9-NOON

Ages: 8-12

\$25/child

Unleash your inner scientist at Crazy Creatures, a one-of-a-kind summer camp where we explore the weird, the wacky, and the wonderful world of animal mutations! From two-headed snakes to ducks with extra legs, we'll dive into the fascinating "glitches" in DNA that help animals survive — or just make them look incredibly cool.



TERRIFIC TREES

JUNE 2-3 | 9-11:30AM

Ages: 5-7

\$25/child

Branch out this summer at Terrific Trees! Designed for curious explorers, this camp takes kids on a captivating journey from the roots to the canopy. We'll spend our days discovering the secret life of the forest through "tree-mendous" hands-on activities like leaf rubbings, an animal scavenger hunt, and an ecology hike.



LITTLE ANGLERS

JUNE 11 | 9-NOON

Ages: 5-7

\$15/child

A fun-filled one-day Fishing Camp awaits kids! Young anglers will have the opportunity to learn the basics of fishing, including practice casting and exploring the serene surroundings of our fishing spot. Campers will discover the joy of catching fish while also gaining insights into aquatic life and the importance of conservation. With hands-on activities and plenty of time to connect with nature, your child will make new friends and create lasting memories. Let the adventures begin!



CANOE CLASSICS

JUNE 18 | 9-NOON

Ages: 8-12

\$25/child

Ready to trade the screen for a paddle? Canoe Classics is a premier summer experience where the rhythm of the water meets the thrill of exploration. Whether your camper is a first-time paddler or a budding river guide, our camp offers the perfect blend of vigorous fun and essential skill-building through paddling basics, canoe races, and water rescues.



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

JUNE 23-24 | 9AM-9AM

Ages: 8-13

\$55/child

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



TOAD-ALLY RAD REPTILES

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

Ages: 5-7

\$25/child

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



**SUSTAINABLE IOWA: SOIL SCIENCE
& CONSERVATION LANDSCAPES**

JULY 7-8 | 9-NOON

Ages: 8-12

\$25/child

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



CREEKSIDE ADVENTURES

JULY 21-22 | 9-11:30AM

Ages: 5-7

\$25/child

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



NIGHT OWLS

JULY 28-29 | 7-10PM

Ages: 8-12

\$25/child

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



2026

SUMMER CAMPS



MYCOUNTPARKS.COM



Academic Calendar 2026-27

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

August	20	Family Engagement Night
	24	First Day of School
September	7	No School - Labor Day
	25	Homecoming
	30	High School Parent Teacher Conferences
October	15 & 22	Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences
	20 & 27	Middle School Parent Teacher Conferences
	23	End of Term 1 (44 Days)
	26	No School - TQ Day
November	8 & 6	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 (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
6/27/2027	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	
Green	First Day of School/Classes Resume
Yellow	No School
Orange	90-Minute Early Dismissal
Purple	2-Hour Early Dismissal
Blue	End of Term
Light Blue	Parent Teacher Conferences

MAPPING MADISON COUNTY

*Preserving & Advancing
our Cultural, Historical
& Ecological Identity*

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

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

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

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

Why Share Your Story?

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

How to Contribute

To submit a story, resource, or point of interest, complete a Submission Form.

Forms can be found at
<https://tinyurl.com/5bak9pny>



Questions?

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

Supported by Drake University and Iowa State University





Spend Your Summer in Pammel Park!

Are you a high school, college student, or recent grad? Are you passionate about nature? Spend the summer with us as a Madison County Conservation Intern! Duties include helping with Summer Camps, habitat restoration, special events, and more!

Get valuable experience in the conservation field!



Contact Jessie Lowry
jlowry@madisoncounty.iowa.gov
515-462-3536



Winterset Huskies Youth Speed and Agility Training and Testing

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

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

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

Location: Winterset High School Competition Gym

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

Testing Dates: May 26 | June 6, 20 | July 2, 19

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

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

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

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

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

What parents need to
know — and how to
talk about safety
concerns

Writer: [Jennifer King Lindley](#)
Clinical Experts: [Dave Anderson, PhD](#), [Megan Ice, PhD](#)

en Español

Key Takeaways

Many teens use AI chatbots not only for schoolwork but also for advice, support, and everyday questions.

Teens who feel lonely, anxious, or depressed may be especially drawn to chatbots, which can sometimes reinforce harmful thinking instead of challenging it.

Parents can help teens understand how chatbots work and build digital literacy, so they can use AI more thoughtfully.

[AI chatbots as digital companions](#)

[Why teens are drawn to chatbots](#)

[Risks of using chatbots](#)

[Dangers for the most vulnerable](#)

[How to talk to your teen about chatbots](#)

[Help kids foster real-life connections](#)

In talking with a dozen teens in my life recently, I learned many are interacting with ChatGPT in ways that surprised me. They described when they turn to this virtual tool: for algebra assistance, a personalized daily horoscope, the best way to phrase an awkward text to their boss. At times, they sought deeper advice: Is my friend ghosting me if they haven't replied to my text yet? Another queried: Do I maybe have ADHD? I can never settle down to study!

Like the rest of us, teenagers are increasingly using AI chatbots, digital tools that simulate human interactions. AI bots are also proliferating on gaming and social media sites. Platforms like Replika and Character.AI allow the user to create highly customized characters to interact with as you would a friend (or partner!). A [2025 study from Common Sense Media](#) found that 72 percent of teens surveyed have used AI companions at least once, and 52 percent qualify as regular users who interact with these platforms at least a few times a month.

"The genie is out of the bottle. Your teen has AI chatbot apps on their phones, on their laptops, not to mention that many companies are scrambling to make their interfaces more engaging through the use of AI," says [Dave Anderson, PhD](#), a psychologist at the Child Mind Institute.

This trend is causing concerns among mental health professionals, who are worried these obliging digital companions may pose significant risks to teens' emotional and social well-being. Indeed, the Common Sense Media study concluded AI companions pose an "unacceptable risk" to teens under 18, citing such concerns as exposure to sexual content and dangerous advice.

"There's no federal regulation. We're dealing with the Wild West when it comes to chatbots' effects on children's development," says [Naomi Aguiar, PhD](#), a researcher at Oregon State University who has studied how children and adults form relationships with chatbots. That means for now, it falls to parents to help teens try to navigate this uncharted terrain.

AI chatbots as digital companions

While they come in different forms, chatbots generally engage in ongoing back-and-forth conversations with the user. The more you interact, the more the bot learns about you and the more personalized its responses become. Bots can come off as your best friend — their answers are often affirming, they are available 24/7, they will churn out that three-page essay on *Hamlet* in seconds, no complaints. They respond to your every request with effusive enthusiasm (*That is an insightful question! Great idea! What would you like me to do next for you?*).

This charm is by design: While they might seem to be an empathetic pal, chatbots are driven by an algorithm whose main purpose is to keep you engaged so it can mine your data or get you to linger on a platform as long as possible. “It’s not designed to ever push back. By design it will always agree” says [Annie Maheux, PhD](#), an assistant professor of psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who studies adolescents and digital media.

While teens might start off by using AI for help with schoolwork, they are increasingly relying on chatbots for the kind of emotional support and unburdening of confidences that earlier generations turned to real-life besties for. “They call it Chat, like it’s a proper name,” says [Megan Ice, PhD](#), a psychologist at the Child Mind Institute, “and they use it frequently for emotional support — say, asking what to do about trouble with a friend. They can come to depend on it.”

Many teens do simply experiment with bots for entertainment or information. Dr. Anderson says most teens understand that interacting with obliging chatbots does not constitute a real relationship. “Teens know they are being glazed, to awkwardly apply a slang term,” he says. But relationships with AI chatbots have in a few high-profile cases [appeared to play a role in reinforcing self-harm and suicidal thoughts for teens struggling with their mental health](#).

While these cases may be extreme, Dr. Anderson says they signal a wider problem. [Studies show](#) that teens in the United States are experiencing increasing levels of anxiety and depression. “There is a reason why kids are reaching out to these chatbots,” he notes. “We have a ton of teens who report feeling lonely or socially isolated. At the same time, we have a massive shortage of access to mental health professionals for them.”

Why teens are drawn to chatbots

Developmentally, teenagers may be uniquely vulnerable to chatbots, suggest experts: They have grown up very comfortable forming “relationships” with computer characters from the time they could first swipe their tiny finger on a screen. “It’s totally normal for them to have completely disembodied conversations,” Dr. Aguiar says. “You text your friend rather than talk. You communicate feelings with emojis. You might have a ‘best’ friend you only know through online gaming.”

Adolescence is also an age when you are increasingly focused on how you are fitting in with friends and peer groups, says Dr. Ice. “There can be a lot of social anxiety. The option of a connection with an AI ‘friend’ who is not going to judge you is uniquely enticing for this population.” Sharing feelings and private thoughts with a chatbot provides the flavor of friendship in a frictionless way — no risk of rejection or awkwardness. “A friend might not text you back. Bots are always available.”

This judgment-free zone *can* have upsides, says Dr. Ice. “Talking to a bot, a teen can explore identity issues they might be going through. For example, when you’re talking to the bot, you don’t have to express yourself in the same way you would at school. There can be room to explore identities that you might not feel safe doing elsewhere.” Dr. Ice has also seen kids use AI to help their natural creativity find a new outlet. “They may create an AI character and weave elaborate backstories for it. It can bring to life the dreams in their minds.”

Risks of using chatbots

But these synthetic connections have risks for teens, too. An overreliance on bots can get in the way of the messy and sometimes painful business of forming and maintaining real life relationships. Practicing social skills to connect with complicated actual people is a key developmental task of adolescence. “The more they engage with bots, the less practice they get in how to respond in the moment to what someone says, to clarify misunderstandings, or to tolerate the feelings that can come up in awkward social situations,” Dr. Ice says.

Bots may also satisfy the need for connection in a superficial way. “It is the fast food of human connection,” says Dr. Aguiar. In those pre-iPhone days, boredom and loneliness used to drive teens to the food court or the basketball bleachers to mix it up with their peers. The weaker substitute of bots may be just enough to keep some teens alone on their phones in their bedrooms, idling away hours in what *seem* like friendly conversations.

Dangers for the most vulnerable

The human-like quality of AI chatbots can have particular allure for teens with underlying vulnerabilities, such as being socially isolated or suffering from a mental health disorder that might impair social interactions, says Dr. Anderson. If teens are struggling with their mental health and turn to AI for advice, it can respond in ways that can be unhelpful and even dangerous, he says. “If a teen asks, *What should I do about the fact that I’m depressed?* AI’s initial answers tend to pull facts like: *Depression is a well-known condition. Here are the diagnostic criteria. Here are leading treatments.* But if the teen responds *Listen, I’m thinking I want to [insert bad idea] about my depression*, parents are right to be concerned. AI companies need to implement safeguards that prevent AI from being overly agreeable with responses such as, *I’m glad you told me that. That is a common idea that people have....* Now the advice moves into an unacceptably dangerous area of risk.”

The results in a few extreme cases have been devastating. “There have been tragic stories where a teenager was talking intensely to a chatbot, and it led toward an acceleration of the mental health crisis the teenager was currently experiencing,” says Dr. Anderson. In some cases, chatbots can act as dangerous echo chambers, reinforcing a user’s serious mental health symptoms rather than questioning them. But, says Dr. Anderson, the profusion of headlines that sound the alarm about topics like “AI-induced psychosis” can be misleading. AI psychosis is not a clinical diagnosis, but “parents’ concerns about these topics do have the much-needed effect of driving the discussion toward the guardrails that we desperately need to see from companies in this space. Teenagers who are already isolated, vulnerable to depression and suicidality, perhaps at the early stage of psychosis and wrestling with delusions, and spending long periods of time alone are the most vulnerable.”

Dr. Anderson adds, “As of now, chatbots can’t and don’t do what a therapist does — assess for risk, make sure to confirm that someone is connecting to social or professional support to ensure safety, or supportively challenge and reframe a patient’s thinking when it has the potential to hurt them. And if we’re smart enough to invent AI, we should be smart enough to help it recognize when it’s out of its depth in substituting for critical mental health care.”

How to talk to your teen about chatbots

It is an understatement to say the landscape of AI is changing rapidly and we are *all* scrambling to keep up. Even in the face of lawsuits, tech companies have been slow to put up effective guardrails on chatbot use by youth. This makes it even more important to have a talk with your teen. “Fostering your teen’s digital literacy is most important here,” says Dr. Ice. “We need them to be able to recognize risks and benefits for themselves and be thoughtful about what they do.”

Be curious. At this naturally rebellious age, simply telling teens “Don’t do this” doesn’t work well, says Dr. Ice. “A better approach with teens is to be curious. Ask your teen, how have you used AI? What was it like for you? What did you find helpful? What did you find unhelpful? How are your friends using it?” That can start a discussion that will give you [insight into their experience](#).

Educate. Pull back the curtain on chatbots’ main goal. “Have a back-and-forth conversation with them about how algorithms work, how companies have their own motives behind chatbots and how they are designed to keep you interacting with them,” Dr. Ice says. To avoid eye rolling, present this concern as something you are learning about together, not about deciding whether AI is good or bad.

Encourage self-sufficiency. You want to help your teen build their own social “muscle” says Dr. Ice. “Encourage kids to try on their own first before asking AI.” Before asking Chat to write an apology text to a friend, suggest they give it a whirl themselves. “Help them build confidence that they can do it without AI.”

Help kids foster real-life connections

If your teen is spending more time on their devices than interacting with actual people, investigate what may be going on, counsels Dr. Ice. “Are they not finding kids with the same interests to hang out with? Is someone in their friend group being mean? Be curious about what’s making it so much more appealing for your teen to be online.”

Dr. Anderson emphasizes that even in this digital age, there is no substitute for actual human-to-human interaction: “Balance is important. Teens can have social lives that exist to some degree in the digital world, but we want parents to support their teens in having face-to-face peer experiences. That might mean talking to a teacher to see if there is a club your teen can join so they can be around other like-minded peers. We want to try to put them in lots of different situations where they can have exposure to peers in real life.”

Keep your own lines of communication with your teen wide open, says Dr. Anderson. “Study after study finds teens saying they don’t feel like they have a coach, a tutor, a religious or spiritual leader, a teacher, a school counselor, or a parent who they can go to, who will be nonjudgmental and will listen.” Remind them they can always come to you for advice and support if they are struggling. Being that sounding board can make their craving for a bot’s willing ear a little less compelling.

ADDITUDE *ADHD Science & Strategies*

ADHD Parenting > Friendships & Activities

SUMMER

Summer Camps for Children with ADHD

No more teachers, no more books... no more structure? If you are seeking to make the most of summer break, consider a summer camp designed to help children with ADHD learn social skills and problem-solving, as well as build better self-esteem.



| By [Phyllis Hanlon](#) | Updated on February 27, 2024

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Mention “summer camp,” and a host of questions come to mind for parents of [children with ADHD](#):

- Will my son make friends?
- Will my daughter be able to build on what she learned during the school year?
- What if he acts up?
- Who will administer her medication?

Virtually all [camps specializing in children with ADHD](#) and learning disabilities have these (and other) parental worries covered. Parents may still choose from a broad range of camps that differ in the activities they offer, their missions, and educational goals. One of the following five types of [ADHD camps](#) will be a good fit for your child.

Summer Camps for Kids with ADHD: Friendship and Personal Growth

Social-skills camps are for children who want to be part of a peer group. Kids who attend feel marginalized during the school year or have difficulty making friends. Counselors are trained to encourage positive relationships among campers and to foster self-esteem. Although camps stress that they’re not merely recreational, there are many traditional camping activities, from rope courses to nature hikes, kayaking to rock climbing, all under the watchful eye of counselors. One camper wrote home from Summit Camp: “Dear Mom and Dad, You gave me something I never really had (except at home): friends! I am very thankful and grateful. I love you. Bonnie.”

Summer Camps for Kids with ADHD: Life Skills

Like personal-growth camps, activity-based camps incorporate team-building into their curricula. Campers usually live at a base camp, and have challenging outdoor adventures – white-water rafting on swift rivers instead of canoeing on calm lakes, horseback riding through mountain ranges instead of nature hikes in the woods. Camp is a short-term, high-impact experience that is especially popular with teens. Adventure camps’ high-octane programs promote good decision-making and build self-esteem. They help kids learn to plan and execute those plans, whether they are completing a project for school or keeping appointments with friends. Counselors at SOAR accompany campers while they do their laundry at a laundromat, and they help campers plan their meals and shop for supplies for a four-day hike.

[\[Free Guide to Choosing the Perfect Camp for Your Child\]](#)

Summer Camps for Kids with ADHD: Academic Support

Some schools that specialize in learning disabilities run remediation and enrichment programs during the summer. Such classroom-based programs are good for children with dyslexia or other language-based learning

disabilities, who may regress academically if given only a few hours of academics each week. Although these summer programs are not camps per se, the strong educational component is generally tempered with time spent outside the classroom. For example, at Landmark College's High School Summer Session, students balance their 19 hours of class time a week with orienteering, tennis, or trips to local theaters and attractions.

Summer Camps for Kids with ADHD: Treatment Programs

Developed more than 20 years ago, at the University at Buffalo, STPs cater specifically to the needs of ADHD children. Now offered at 10 sites across the country, these eight-week day camps give children, ages five through 14, and their parents intensive behavioral training that will help them throughout the next school year.

Behavior modification sessions are taught by developmental specialists in both individual and group settings. A part of each day is dedicated to age-appropriate games and activities that improve learning skills, academic performance, and self-esteem. STPs focus on the individual – children receive daily feedback, as well as a report at the end of the session, which describes interventions made during camp and recommendations for future treatment. According to one study, more than 95 percent of parents report a positive impact on their children, themselves, and their families.

Mom and Dad are key components of the program. As STP founder and professor of psychology and psychiatry at Florida International University, William Pelham, Ph.D., says, "When you teach a child with ADHD how to get along with others, you also have to teach parents to maximize the gains in a family setting and beyond." During special evening sessions, parents are taught everything from how to handle problematic behavior to helping with homework.

["When Can I Go Back, Mom?"]

Summer Camps for Kids with ADHD: Mainstream Options

Many families opt for traditional, mainstream camps. If your child makes friends easily and is comfortable in a less structured environment, a mainstream camp may help him feel like one of the gang. Children with ADHD make up 20 percent of enrollment at some mainstream camps, so managing medications is rarely a problem. And almost every camp of any kind these days has at least one full-time nurse on staff.

If a child has a passion for, say, soccer or swimming or drama, use the summer to bolster these skills, along with a sense of competence and identity. There's a mainstream camp to suit virtually every interest or hobby. An added benefit: Attending these camps eases the stigma of being taken out of class for special accommodations or making trips to the school nurse for meds during the school year.

How Do You Choose a Summer Camp?

While no type of camp guarantees a happy camper, keep a few things in mind. First, get your child's input when choosing a camp. "Children function best when doing something they like," says Andrew Adesman, M.D., director of developmental and behavioral pediatrics at the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York. "The other 10 months of the year, they are forced to go to school. Don't make them spend the other two months doing uninteresting things."

Once you've narrowed your choices, share the camps' information with your child's teacher and ask for her opinion, advises Michele Borba, Ed.D., an educational consultant and author of the social-skills primer *Nobody Likes Me, Everybody Hates Me: The Top 25 Friendship Problems and How to Solve Them*. "A teacher can probably give you a good idea about the fit between your child and a camp's programs."

Don't make your decision by considering only your child's ADHD. "The bottom line is, you want your child's camp experience to be fun and positive," says Borba. "Yes, it can teach your child new skills, but the most important thing it will do is boost your child's confidence in being away from home and handling life without you around. That's a plus for every child."



Resources for Families

IOWA FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

This service provides assistance in:

- Early ACCESS - provides support for infants and toddlers under three years old
- Family Support Programs - provides home visiting
- Children at Home - provides support for individuals with disabilities up to the age of 21
- Nine2Thrive - provides support for healthy development during pregnancy
- Hearing Services - provides support for children with hearing loss
- Access to community resources and support services

Phone: 888-IAKIDS1 (888-425-4371)

Monday-Friday 8am-6pm

www.iafamilysupportnetwork.org

iafamilysupportnetwork@everystep.org

IOWA CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL

Phone: 855-244-5301

www.iowaccrr.org

EVERYSTEP CARE & SUPPORT SERVICES

Phone: 515-558-9946

www.everystep.org

AUTISM SUPPORT PROGRAM

This service provides Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Services for those who meet the following criteria:

- The child is under the age of fourteen (14) **at the time of application**
- The child has a diagnosis on the Autism spectrum made by a child psychiatrist, developmental pediatrician, or clinical psychologist
- The diagnosis is dated within twenty-four (24) months of the date of application
- The child does not qualify for Medicaid or any other public funding for ABA services
- The child does not have coverage available for ABA services through any private insurance carrier
- The child's family meets the income guidelines for the program

**To access supports email:
autismsupport@hhs.iowa.gov**

REGIONAL AUTISM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This service provides assistance in:

- System Navigation
- Care Coordination
- Diagnostic Services
- Accessing Community Based Services
- Exploring Funding Options
- Navigating the Education and Medical Systems
- Advocacy and Family Support

**To access supports call:
Child Health Specialty Clinics
866-219-9119**

Connect with Your Disability Access Point



Community Support Advocates
1516 Valley West Drive
West Des Moines, IA 50266
515-288-0803



ADRC

**Iowa Aging and Disability
Resource Center**

Iowa HHS

Stay Connected with WCSD!



Upgraded Website:

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

Electronic Backpacks:

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

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

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



Twitter:

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



Infinite Campus:

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