



Panther Tracks

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**Cass Lake-Bena
High School**

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**The mission of
the Cass Lake-
Bena Schools is
to educate, sup-
port, and pre-
pare all learners
for future
success.**

Fall 2026

Principal's Highlights

Dominic Krump

October 13, 2026

Boozhoo Cass Lake-Bena Families and Friends,

We've had a fantastic start to the school year! Our students and staff are building strong connections and learning together each day. Cass Lake-Bena High School continues to be a place where everyone can show their Panther Pride.

Homecoming Week was a great success, full of spirit and celebration! From coronation and games to our pep fest, block party, and movie night, it was a week to remember. A heartfelt thank you to all the staff, students, and community members who helped make these events possible. We encourage all students to get involved in school activities—it's a great way to share your talents and gain valuable life experience.

Looking ahead, our first trimester conferences will be held on Monday, November 2, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. We invite all families to join us for a meal, meet with teachers to discuss student progress, and connect with local resources. As we complete our first month of school, now is a great time to check in on student grades and attendance. Please reach out to the school if you have any questions or need support.

We also offer **after-school tutoring Monday through Thursday from 3:30 to 5:00 PM.** Students can attend tutoring, enjoy a meal at the Big Cats Cafe, and take the after-school bus home.

This year, we're limiting distractions at school and we're creating more opportunities for focused learning and meaningful engagement. Our students have wonderful opportunities to earn college credit and career experience. New courses this year are Mechatronics, Child Development Associate, and Intro to Education. Thank you to the teaching and counseling staff that helped bring this new learning into the building.

Thank you to all of our families for your ongoing support—making sure students are well-rested, on time, and present each day makes a big difference. If your child is going to be absent, please call the school office so we can support them in staying on track with schoolwork.

We're looking forward to a great year ahead. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions, concerns, or ideas for the high school.

Go Panthers!

Sincerely,

Dominic Krump
High School Principal



HS Secretaries**Paula Smith / Alicia Croaker***Just a few friendly reminders*

- ♦ *If your student is going to be absent or tardy, please call the High School office so we can excuse them (ext. 1103 or 1101).*
- ♦ *If you change your address or phone number, please call us so we can update the system.*
- ♦ *If you need to change your students bus, please call Transportation (ext. 1991 or 1992).*
- ♦ *If you need to pick up your student, remember you/they need to sign out in the front office so their absence can be excused.*

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday, Oct. 15th	MEA—No School
Friday, Oct. 16th	MEA—No School
Monday, Nov. 2nd	Conferences 10am–6pm
Tuesday, Nov. 24th	End of Trimester 1
Wednesday, Nov. 25th	No School
Thursday, Nov 26th	Holiday—No School
Friday, Nov 27th	Holiday—No School
Wednesday, Dec. 23rd	Student half day
December 24 - January 1st	Holiday/Winter Break

School Counselors**Alisha Hillukka & Jen Voge****COUNSELOR CORNER - FALL 26/27**

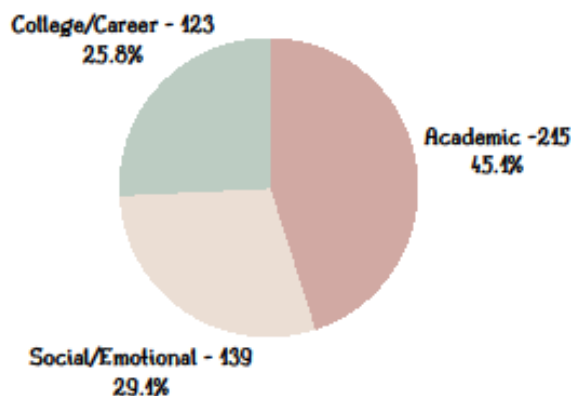
Jennifer Voge (A-K) & Alisha Hillukka (L-Z)

jvoge@isd415.net or ext. 4323

ahillukka@isd415.net or ext. 4337

Credits & Graduation

Every Fall we go into homeroom classes to go over the credits that are necessary to receive a CLBHS diploma. Each student receives their credit check and transcript as we go through where they should be at in order to be on track. We then repeat this same presentation in the Spring prior to registration so students are able to select classes that will work best for them to progress towards graduation. After this, we examine each student's credit check one-by-one to ensure their schedules match what they need. This multi-step process has helped students to better understand their credits and what is necessary to graduate. We take great pride in guiding each student on their graduation journey!

**School Counselor Use of Time
September 2026****Highlights**

- SchoolLinks, our college and career readiness platform, has been introduced into homerooms and will be utilized every Monday. Students will primarily use the platform to set SMART goals and keep track of experience hours to demonstrate college and career readiness.
- We have been selected once again to receive the Higher Pathways Grant from the American Indian College Fund. We will use most of these funds to promote college-going activities for our seniors.
- Each senior has completed their senior meeting with their respective school counselor.
- There are lots of upcoming field trips and career pathway expos coming up throughout the school year. We hope to make this our best career academy year yet!

Yearbook

Kelsey Engel

**SCORE YOUR
YEARBOOK
BEFORE IT'S
TOO LATE!**



YEARBOOK ORDER FORM

The yearbook is now for sale! Order by the deadline on this flyer and get up to \$20 off when you personalize your yearbook with your student's name and 4 icons. Use promo code YBKICONS at checkout (Online Only).

Includes Yearbook, 1 Line of Personalization, Color Autograph Section and 5 Multicolor Signing Markers

2014.04.15

0000	0007	0008	000C	0011	0012	0013	0014	0015	0017
0019	001A	001B	001C	001D	001E	001F	0020	0021	0022
0023	0024	0025	0026	0027	0028	0029	002A	002B	002C
002D	002E	002F	0030	0031	0032	0033	0034	0035	0036
0037	0038	0039	003A	003B	003C	003D	003E	003F	0040
0041	0042	0043	0044	0045	0046	0047	0048	0049	004A
004B	004C	004D	004E	004F	0050	0051	0052	0053	0054
0055	0056	0057	0058	0059	005A	005B	005C	005D	005E
005F	0060	0061	0062	0063	0064	0065	0066	0067	0068
0069	006A	006B	006C	006D	006E	006F	0070	0071	0072
0073	0074	0075	0076	0077	0078	0079	007A	007B	007C
007D	007E	007F	0080	0081	0082	0083	0084	0085	0086
0087	0088	0089	008A	008B	008C	008D	008E	008F	0090

	Price	Quantity	Total
Enter Your Package Price			
Personalization	\$8.00		
Icon(s) ea.	\$5.00 x QTY		
Autograph Section	\$3.00		
Clear Protective Cover	\$5.00		
Photo Pockets	\$5.00		
Donate a Yearbook	\$65.00		
World Beat	\$5.00		
Subtotal			
Tax	7.375%		
TOTAL			

One-time use. Exclusions apply (tax, shipping, gift cards, past purchases). Cannot be combined with other offers. Promo period varies by school, valid only during your school's selected dates. See <https://www.juulme.com/offers/juulme/> for full terms. Taxes, service fees and delivery fee will be added, if applicable. Payment plans are available: minimum purchase requirements and eligibility restrictions apply.

Health Office

Roberta Williams

Staying Healthy During Cold & Flu Season: Get back to the basics!

Cold and flu season is here! While we can't prevent every illness, a few simple habits can help keep our students, families, and school communities healthy.



Get Good Sleep

Sleep gives your body time to rest and recharge. Children and teens need plenty of sleep to support their immune system, mood, learning, and overall health.



Eat Good Meals

A balanced diet gives your body the nutrients it needs to stay healthy. Include fruits and vegetables, whole grains, protein, and plenty of water throughout the day.



Wash Your Hands

One of the easiest ways to prevent the spread of germs is to wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Remember to wash before eating and after coughing, sneezing, blowing your nose, or using the bathroom.



Get Vaccinated

Staying up to date on recommended vaccines, including the annual flu vaccine, can help protect you and those around you from serious illness. Talk with your healthcare provider about which vaccines are recommended for you and your family. According to the CDC on average, flu vaccination reduces the risk of flu-related illness by 40–60%!



Reduce Stress

Stress can affect both our physical and emotional health. Make time for things that help you relax—getting outside, being active, spending time with family and friends, listening to music, or simply taking a few quiet minutes for yourself.



And If You Get Sick...

Give your body time to recover. Rest, drink plenty of fluids, and stay home when you're sick. If symptoms are severe, getting worse, or you are concerned, contact your healthcare provider. For your student: If they have a fever keep them home for at least 24 hours, until the fever is gone without the use of fever-reducing medications like Tylenol or Advil. Students should return to school when they can stay in school and participate in normal activities, and when their cough is contained.



Small Habits Make a Big Difference

Please get your Annual Health Forms to the school Nurse

Media Center**Theresa Higman**

High School Media Center

By Theresa Higman, District Media Specialist

Welcome back to another year! I hope everyone enjoyed their summer vacation. I relaxed and recharged for my 21st year working in our school district. It does not feel like I have been here for that long, and I think that says a lot about the staff and students in Cass Lake.

The media center is in a time of transition, but everyone is pitching in. The high school staff is busy with media center coverage before school, at lunch time, and after school, plus we have substitute teachers who step up when needed to put away books, find books students are looking for, or relating items that we need to me so I can get them ordered.

I am taking care of everything that I can through the computer system from the elementary school, so hopefully, we will stay up-to-date and will not fall behind. As usual, the students who utilize the media center are very responsible, and I appreciate that and everyone who is helping.

It is a busy fall, as it always is, and I hope you all have a great fall season.



Cass Lake-Bena Robotics Teams Are Recruiting!

The **Cass Lake-Bena Robotics Teams** are gearing up for another exciting year, and we are currently recruiting new members! Our program includes **Team 3134 – the Accelerators** and **Team 3275 – the Regulators**, and both teams are looking for students who are interested in learning, building, competing, and being part of a team.

Robotics is a **year-round program**, and we are **always accepting applications**. Students do not need previous robotics experience to join. Whether you are interested in **building, programming, electronics, mechanical design, CAD, strategy, communications, problem-solving, or technology**, there are many ways to get involved.

One of the great things about robotics is that students **learn by doing**. Team members work together to design, build, program, test, troubleshoot, and improve their robots. Along the way, students develop skills in **teamwork, communication, creativity, project management, critical thinking, and problem-solving** that can be valuable both in school and in future careers.

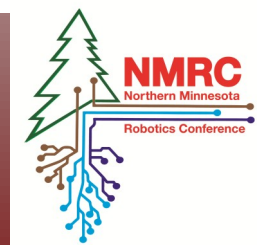
Our teams also have opportunities to **travel, compete, attend training events, and work alongside other robotics teams and mentors** from throughout the region. The Northern Minnesota Robotics Conference provides additional opportunities for teams to compete and grow together, with events and programs throughout the year.

Upcoming Robotics Events

- **Conference Championship** – Friday, October 23, 2026, in Perham, MN, at the Perham Area Community Center (PACC)
- **Jump-Start Training** – Saturday, December 5, 2026, at North Dakota State University (NDSU)
- **New Season Kick-Off Event** – Saturday, January 9, 2027, in Nevis, MN
- **1st Regional Competition** – March 10–13, 2027, in Grand Forks, ND
- **2nd Regional Competition** – Date and location to be announced
- **World Championship** – April 28–May 1, 2027, in Houston, TX
- **Minnesota State Tournament** – May 15, 2027, at the Gangelhoff Center at Concordia University, St. Paul

For students who enjoy **hands-on projects, technology, engineering, computers, creativity, competition, or working with others**, robotics is a great opportunity to get involved. Students don't have to know exactly what they want to do when they join. The team provides opportunities to try different areas, learn new skills, discover new interests, and find a way to contribute.

Most importantly, **you don't have to wait for the beginning of a season to join us**. Our robotics program runs throughout the year, and applications are accepted year-round.



Ojibwe Teacher**Charles Grolla****Ojibwe Language Classes**

Boozhoo gakina wiya! (Greetings, everyone!)

Our Ojibwe classes are off to a great start of the year! We have two beginning Ojibwe Classes, an intermediate and an advanced class for this first trimester (Fall). Beginning Ojibwe classes are working on their Ojibwe protocols (name, clan, where from, and where they live). Intermediate students are expanding their protocols and building on last year's knowledge. Advanced students are also expanding protocols and are beginning to work on individual projects. Right away, when school started, all classes warmed up and participated in our Fall all-school moccasin game tournament, dubbed our "Welcome Back" tournament (Sept. 17th&18th). Last year's Ojibwe council came up with this idea. We had 18 three-person teams in this tournament. This is a record number of teams and players. It took two days to complete this tournament. We started with telling the legend of the Moccasin Game and how it was gifted to us, and we feasted the game. This tournament was the largest this year throughout all of Ojibwe country. In our area, we have the biggest group of Moccasin Game players in the United States and Canada. We will have a winter tournament and a spring tournament. Our school's Ojibwe council led the tournament and were the official judges and tournament coordinators. This year's Ojibwe council is as follows:

Ojimaakaanag / Chiefs

Gagiikwewikwe (Olivia Polk)

Nigigoons (Tamara Goggleye)

Maada'okiisiwag / Representatives

Memengwaa (Haleigh Roy)

Gaagige-ozhaawa-giizhigookwe (Nichelle Howard)

Miskwaanakwadookwe (Caroline Jones)

Ziibiinsikwe (Deziree Wittner)

Waase-anangoowinini (Dylan Jones)

Nezhikewawaasang (William Bobolink Staples)

Migizi (Wambli McArther)



Building a Place for Learning: Construction Class Creates Outdoor Classroom

Students in the Cass Lake-Bena Technology Education Department have been putting their construction skills to work on a project that will benefit students throughout the school for years to come—a new outdoor classroom located in front of the Middle School.

The Construction Class has worked on a variety of hands-on projects, including shingling and learning how to properly use basic construction tools. One of the class's major projects, however, has been the development of the new outdoor classroom. Work on the project began last year, and concrete for the classroom space was poured at the end of this summer.

The outdoor classroom is part of the school's School Forest, which is registered and managed in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Located in front of the Middle School, the space is easily accessible to all buildings on the school campus, providing teachers and students throughout the school with an opportunity to take learning outside and make use of the natural environment surrounding them.

A Community Effort

A large portion of the funding for the outdoor classroom came through the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education) program. SNAP-Ed's involvement has gone beyond financial support. The program also brought native herbs and plants to the site and helped plant them around the outdoor classroom.

These plantings will become part of the learning environment, giving students opportunities to observe and learn about native plants while connecting the outdoor classroom to the natural environment and the School Forest.

The project has brought together the Technology Education Department, English Department, the local tribal community, and other school and community partners.

Building Across the Curriculum

Construction students have collaborated with Eric Medberry's Nature and Native American Literature Class in the English Department as part of the project. Medberry's class helped determine what would be featured on the benches, selecting native plants, animals, and other information to be incorporated into the designs.

Construction students are bringing those ideas to life using the school's CNC router, carving the selected designs into the bench tops. The names of the plants, animals, and other features are included in both English and Ojibwe, creating a connection between construction, technology, language, culture, and the natural environment.

One of the most unique features of the outdoor classroom will be its benches. The bench tops are made from 3-inch-thick, live-edge hardwood slabs that were cut and milled locally.

The natural cracks and voids in the hardwood have been filled with colored epoxy, which adds a distinctive visual element to each bench. The epoxy is also used to fill the carved images and words created by the CNC router, helping preserve the designs while making the plants, animals, directions, and bilingual lettering more visually appealing and easier to see.

Construction students are also building the mounting bases for the benches in the school shop.



The project demonstrates how classroom construction work can provide meaningful career-readiness experiences. Students are not simply learning about tools and materials; they are using them to build the components of a permanent outdoor learning space for their school.

Bringing the Project to Life

After months of planning, construction, collaboration, and hands-on work, the Construction Class will install the first batch of benches in early October.

This will be an exciting milestone for the students. They have been involved in building the bench mounting bases, preparing the locally milled hardwood, using the CNC router to create the designs, and finishing the benches with colored epoxy. Now they will see their work installed as a permanent part of the outdoor classroom.

The completed space will be more than a place to sit. It will provide teachers with another setting for instruction and give students opportunities to learn about nature, natural resources, native plants, culture, language, and the environment while learning directly from the surroundings of their school.

This project is a great example of what can happen when students, teachers, school departments, community organizations, and local partners work together. Students are developing real construction and career skills while helping create an educational resource that future Cass Lake-Bena students will be able to use for years to come.

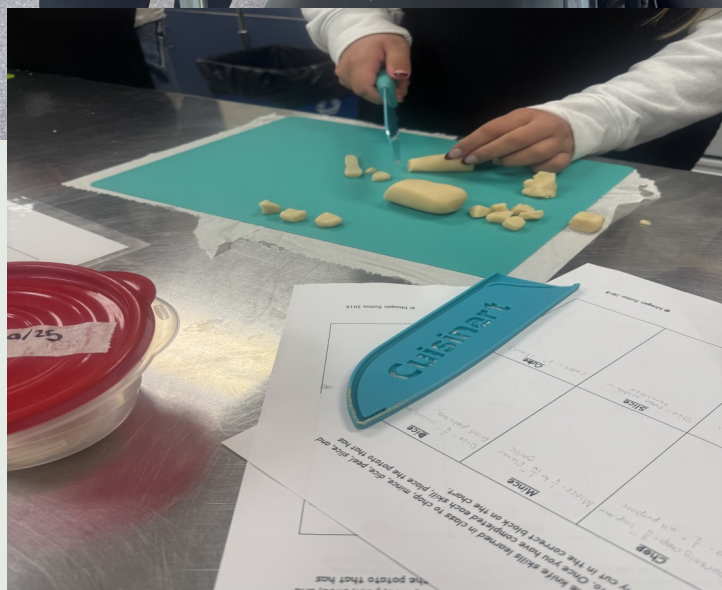
Our students aren't just learning how to build—they are building a place for learning.



Home Ec. Sampler

Lisa Westlund

Home Ec Sampler and Consumer Foods classes have completed Safety and Sanitation, how to measure like a pro, and Knife Skills. We've been chopping, dicing, mincing, mixing, measuring and best of all, sharing food with friends!



Hand Fabrications

Lisa Westlund

Fall has been FABULOUS in FACS!

Our Hand Fabrications Class has been learning the many stitches of Crochet and we are "hooked" on making our own Granny squares, while diving into Tie Dyeing our own t-shirts to honor Orange Shirt Day. Coming up next... Needle Felting and Sewing Machines!



Indian Education Advocate

CASS LAKE-BENA HIGH SCHOOL

Stephanie Fairbanks

SUPPORT • ADVOCATE • EMPOWER

Hello, CLB High School Families!

My name is Stephanie Fairbanks, and I am the Indian Education Advocate at Cass Lake-Bena High School. My role is to support our Native students, their families, and our school community by helping to bridge gaps and remove barriers so every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Our students matter.

When they have the right support, they can achieve their goals, build their futures, and make a difference in our communities.

Every student
has a story...
and a future!
♡

HOW I CAN HELP

I WORK WITH STUDENTS AND FAMILIES ON:

- ✓ Attendance support & intervention
- ✓ IEPs (Individualized Education Programs)
- ✓ 504 Plans (accommodations)
- ✓ JOM (Johnson-O'Malley) support
- ✓ Academic and social-emotional support
- ✓ College, career, and post-secondary planning
- ✓ Connecting with community resources
- ✓ And so much more — whatever your student needs, I'm here to help!

Let's work together!



Support today.
Stronger tomorrow.

THE CARE CLOSET ♡

AT CASS LAKE-BENA HIGH SCHOOL

The Care Closet was designed to help students in our community feel comfortable and supported while at school. It provides free and confidential access to essential items like:



HYGIENE
ITEMS



CLOTHING



FOOD



The Care Closet is here to help our students focus on what matters most — their education.
♡



218-335-2203 ext. 1321



Sfairbanks@isd115.net

Stronger Students ★ Stronger Families ★ Stronger Community

Freshmen Academy

Mrs. Olson -- Computer Apps

Students are developing "touch typing" skills so they can become proficient on a computer. Students will learn word processing skills through letter writing, creating tables, and developing email etiquette. Next up are presentation skills. The 9th graders will create a PowerPoint presentation for the Class of 2031--the presentation will communicate important information about coming to high school and help students feel welcomed at CL-B HS.

Mr. Huju & Mrs. Nei -- Algebra

Algebra classes started off the new trimester working hard on some basic math skills since it's been a long time since our students have been in a math class! We are looking forward to seeing growth over the trimester and we are celebrating the fact that 9th graders don't have to take MCAs!!

Miss Saxton -- English

English classes will be starting to read "Night", by Elie Wiesel, while reading book club selections on different atrocities throughout history. Students will also be learning about the importance of using their voices and telling their stories proudly. This unit will culminate in a research project about a person who used their voice to stand up against some kind of inequality or prejudice. They will make a poster to present.

Ms. Folkers -- Civics and Geography

Moving from teaching 7th grade to high school has been exciting, and I've loved seeing student growth and curiosity in social studies over the years. In 9th grade Civics, we are exploring how government works at the local, state, and federal levels, your rights and responsibilities as citizens, and how communities can influence public policy. In 9th grade Geography, we are studying the world through spatial patterns, cultural and environmental systems, and how people interact with their environments, with a focus on local and global connections.

Mr. Wolter -- Science

Students started the trimester with several experiments; they include analyzing chewing gum, identifying the density of some candy bars, understanding what density is, and finally, identifying certain metals by calculating the density of each metal. The next topics for the rest of the trimester include Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes, Volcanoes of the world, and then rocks and minerals. Students will dive into velocity and speed properties, and acceleration problems, investigate Newton's 3 Laws of Motion, and then explore how heat and energy work together.



Key Log

NS - No School
C - Parent/Teacher Conferences
PD - Professional Development Day
WD - Teacher Work Day
OH- Open House
ED - Early Dismissal (noon)
In-S - In-Service (new staff)
LS - Late Start (two hours)
SD- Weather Make-up Day
ET- End of Trimester

Count Days

Student Contact Days – 171
Teacher Contract Days – 179
Parent/Teacher Conf. Days – 3
Professional Development Days – 2
Teacher Work Days – 3

End of T1: Nov 24
End of T2: March 4
End of T3: May 27

January

1 Holiday – No School
18 Holiday – No School
25 P/T Conferences (10 am - 6 pm)

Student: 18
Teacher: 19
Count Days: 92/97

JANUARY 2027						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	LS	5	6	7	8	9
10	LS	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	C	26	27	28	29	30
31						

AUGUST 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	In-S	21	22
23	24	PD	WD	27	28	29
30	OH					

August:

20 New Teacher In-Service
25 Professional Development
All Staff
26 Teacher Work Day
31 Open House

Student: 1
Teacher: 3
Count Days: 1/3

February

15 Holiday – No School

Student: 19
Teacher: 19
Count Days: 111/116

FEBRUARY 2027						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	LS	2	3	4	5	6
7	LS	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	LS	23	24	25	26	27
28						

SEPTEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	LS	15	16	17	18	19
20	LS	22	23	24	25	26
27	LS	29	30			

September:

1 First day of class (in-seat)
4 No School
7 Holiday – No School

Student: 20
Teacher: 20
Count Days: 21/23

March:

4 End of Trimester 2
5 Professional Development
26 Holiday - No School
29 Weather make-up day

Student: 20
Teacher: 21
Count Days: 131/137

MARCH 2027						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	LS	2	3	ET	PD	6
7	LS	9	10	11	12	13
14	LS	16	17	18	19	20
21	LS	23	24	25	26	27
28	SD	30	31			

OCTOBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	LS	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	LS	20	21	22	23	24
25	LS	27	28	29	30	31

October:

12 Indigenous People's Day-No School
15-16 No School - MEA

Student: 19
Teacher: 19
Count Days: 40/42

April:

12 P/T Conferences (10 am - 6 pm)

Student: 21
Teacher: 22
Count Days: 152/159

APRIL 2027						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	LS	6	7	8	9	10
11	C	13	14	15	16	17
18	LS	20	21	22	23	24
25	LS	27	28	29	30	

NOVEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	C	3	4	5	6	7
8	LS	10	11	12	13	14
15	LS	17	18	19	20	21
22	LS	ET	WD	26	27	28
29	LS					

November:

2 P/T Conferences (10 am - 6 pm)
24 End of Trimester 1
25 Teacher Work Day
26-27 Holiday – No School

Student: 17
Teacher: 19
Count Days: 57/61

May:

3 Weather Make up day
28 End of Trimester 3
Last day for students/1/2 day for students
28 Graduation
31 Holiday – No School

Student: 19
Teacher: 19
Count Days: 171/178

MAY 2027						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	SD	4	5	6	7	8
9	LS	11	12	13	14	15
16	LS	18	19	20	21	22
23	LS	25	26	27	ET	29
30	31					

DECEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	LS	8	9	10	11	12
13	LS	15	16	17	18	19
20	LS	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

December:

23 student half day
24-25 Holiday- No School
28 Holiday - (Observed for 12/26)
28-30 No School
31 Holiday - No School

Student: 17
Teacher: 17
Count Days: 74/78

June:

1 Teacher Work Day
18 Holiday - (Observed for 6/19)

Student:
Teacher: 1
Count Days: 171/179

JUNE 2027						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		WD	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			