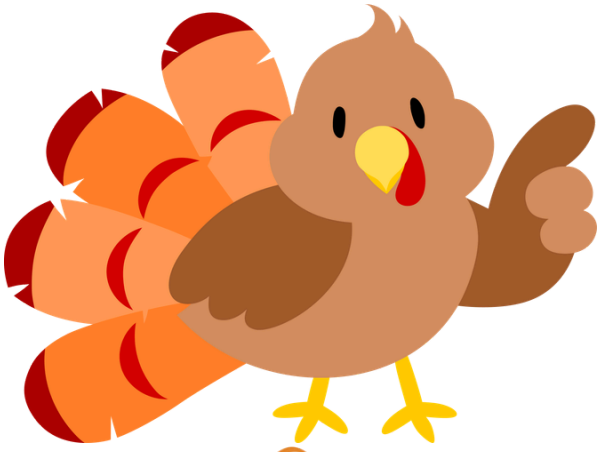
November

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

VOL. 3

Upcoming Events/Dates:

Nov. 1st - Day Light Savings Time Ends
Nov. 5th - Early Release @ 12:30
Nov. 5th - Conferences 1-8
Nov. 11th - PTO Meeting
Nov. 25th - 27th - No School - Thanksgiving Break





VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

WSD will host a public Veterans' Day Program on Wednesday, November 11th, at 10:30 in the Civic Arena.

NOVEMBER 2026

MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
FRUIT AND MILK IS OFFERED AT ALL BREAKFAST MEALS
VEGGIE BAR, FRUIT SELECTION AND MILK SELECTION ARE OFFERED AT ALL LUNCH MEALS.

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
WEEK 4				
2 BREAKFAST: CHOC. MUFFIN 29G GOGURT 8G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: PANCAKE 13G/26G OMELET FRUIT JUICE 15G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	3 BREAKFAST: APPLE FILLED DONUT 33G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: TOTCHO 16G CHURRO 25G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	4 BREAKFAST: PANCAKE STICK 17G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: BREADED CHICKEN SANDWICH 44G BAKED BEANS 30G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	5 BREAKFAST: CC FRENCH TST 37G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: PIZZA CRUNCHERS 21G/42G MARINARA CUP 7G GREEN BEANS 4G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	6 BREAKFAST: CARAMEL MINI 41G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: CHICKEN CUBES W/ GRAVY MASHED POTATOES 20G DINNER ROLL 23G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK
WEEK 5				
9 BREAKFAST: MINI DONUTS 41G GOGURT 8G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: HAMBURGER 28G BAKED BEANS 30G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	10 BREAKFAST: FR. TST STIX 38G SAUSAGE PATTY H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: CRISPITOS 23G/46G HASH BROWN COINS 21G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	11 BREAKFAST: BR. BURRITO 29G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: ORANGE CHICKEN 26G FRIED RICE 27G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	12 BREAKFAST: BB MINI PANCAKE ?G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: CHICKEN TENDERS 12G/18G MASHED POTATO/GRAVY 24G DINNER ROLL 23G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	13 BREAD LOAF 34G YOGURT CUP 15G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: SPAGHETTI 36G GREEN BEANS 4G GARLIC TOAST 24G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK
WEEK 6				
16 BREAKFAST: FRUDEL 38G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: MINI CORN DOGS 20G/30G MAC & CHEESE ?G FR. FRUIT CUP 21G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	17 BREAKFAST: FUNNEL CAKE 38G YOGURT CUP 15G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: QUESIDILLA 33G FIESTA BEANS 17G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	18 BREAKFAST: BREAKFAST SAND. 24G/34G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: CHICKEN DRUMMIES 6G CHICKEN NUGGETS 13G/16G WEDGES 20G/BISCUIT 24G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	19 BREAKFAST: STR. MINI BAGEL 42G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: WAFFLES ?G SAUSAGE LINKS 4G JUICE CUP 15G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	20 BREAKFAST: BANANA MUFFIN 31G STRING CHEESE 15G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: LASAGNA ROLL UP 22G/42G MIXED VEGGIES 12G PLAIN BREADSTICK 14G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK
C. CHOICE				
23 BREAKFAST: COOKS CHOICE H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: COOKS CHOICE CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGIES CHOICE MILK	24 BREAKFAST: COOKS CHOICE H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: COOKS CHOICE CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGIES CHOICE MILK	25 NO SCHOOL 	26 NO SCHOOL 	27 NO SCHOOL
WEEK 1				
30 BREAKFAST: CEREAL/CEREAL BAR 23G YOGURT CUP 15G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: CHEESEBURGER 28G FRIES 16G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK				2

Fall Conference Sign Up

November 5th, 2026
1:00 pm - 8:00 pm

5th Grade


Mrs. McNeely


Mrs. Hooth


Mrs. Eschen


Mrs. Talsma


Mrs. Lloyd


Mrs. B. Johnson


Mrs. R. Johnson


Mr. Zink


Mrs. Falak


Mr. Wilde

6th Grade


Mrs. Nelson


Mrs. Decker


Mrs. Harper


Mr. Denzer


Ms. Tammi


Mr. Clendenin


Mrs. Riddle


Mr. Waters


Mrs. Kantrud


Mr. Harte

WIS Spotlight!



High Five Friday



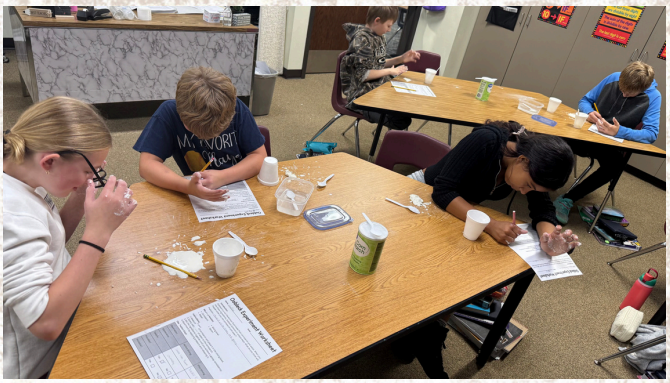


Mrs. McNeely's Class





Co-Op in the Classroom





Fun with Science

Winter Weather Decisions: How Watertown Schools Make the Call
by Dr. Jeff Danielsen, Superintendent

As we approach the winter season in northeastern South Dakota, I want to take a moment to explain how decisions are made regarding late starts, early dismissals, and school cancellations due to winter weather. As Superintendent, your child's safety is my highest priority. We take these decisions seriously and carefully consider the weather conditions, road conditions, and forecasts before determining whether school can safely be held. We monitor several television stations, drive both city and rural roads, and consult with the National Weather Service to gather as much information as possible. Although we make every effort to reach the best decision, weather forecasts are not always 100% accurate, and conditions can change quickly. I also recognize that families may not always agree with a weather-related decision. If you feel conditions are unsafe for your child, you may keep your child home or pick them up from school early.

Late Starts
Late starts are called for two primary reasons: to allow additional time for road crews to clear snow and improve road conditions, and to give us more time to evaluate the weather forecast. On a normal school day, our bus drivers are ready to begin their routes around 6:30–6:45 a.m. With a 10:30 a.m. late start, drivers can delay their routes until approximately 8:30–8:45 a.m., allowing additional daylight for road crews to begin plowing and improving conditions on both city and rural roads. A late start also gives us additional time to monitor the weather and determine whether conditions are expected to improve enough to safely begin school at 10:30 a.m. If conditions are not improving or the forecast indicates that travel will remain unsafe, we may change the decision to a school cancellation. I understand that late starts can create challenges for families, particularly when arranging childcare. Please know that the additional time is used to evaluate conditions and make the safest decision possible for our students and staff.

Early Dismissals
Early dismissals during the winter months are primarily used to help students get home safely during daylight hours before weather conditions deteriorate. Depending on the circumstances, we may dismiss school at 12:30, 1:30, or 2:30 p.m. The dismissal time depends on the forecast, current road conditions, and how quickly we anticipate conditions may worsen. Our goal is to get students home safely before snow, wind, or other hazardous conditions make travel more difficult.

School Cancellations
School may be canceled when road conditions make it too difficult to transport students safely on our buses, even if roads within Watertown appear to be in better condition. We may also cancel school when the forecast indicates that weather conditions are expected to worsen throughout the day. The decision-making process often begins around 4:30–5:00 a.m. Several of us evaluate road conditions in town and in the surrounding rural areas. We also consult with meteorologists in Aberdeen regarding expected snowfall, wind speeds, and other weather conditions. We use the information available to us to make the best decision possible. Unfortunately, weather predictions are not always exact, and conditions may change after a decision has been announced.

What About Extremely Cold Temperatures?
Cold temperatures are another concern during northeastern South Dakota winters. Our district generally does not cancel school solely because of cold temperatures unless the actual air temperature reaches approximately 25–30 degrees below zero. Our school buses are equipped with heating systems and can operate safely in very cold conditions, provided temperatures remain within the range considered manageable for our equipment. Wind chill is an important consideration for students outdoors, but it does not affect the mechanical operation of our buses in the same way it affects people. We also keep our school buildings open for students on extremely cold days. Students will not be expected to wait outside in bus lines or spend time on playgrounds in those conditions. I recognize that media coverage sometimes creates the impression that schools should close whenever temperatures become extremely cold. However, northeastern South Dakota is accustomed to extended periods of winter weather, and canceling school for every day of extreme cold could mean missing two or three weeks of school over the winter. That is why we use the actual air temperature, along with other safety considerations, when making these decisions. If your child walks to school, please plan ahead during periods of extreme cold. Consider reaching out to neighbors or friends to arrange a ride. Most importantly, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for winter weather, including a warm coat, hat, mittens or gloves, and appropriate boots. If you believe the weather is too dangerous for your child, you may keep your child home. We will never ask you to disregard your concerns about your child's safety.

How Will Families Be Notified?
We make every effort, barring technical difficulties, to communicate weather-related decisions as quickly as possible through local television stations, radio stations, the district website, and phone notifications. To help ensure you receive these important announcements, please make sure your contact information is current with your child's school. Updated phone numbers and other contact information are essential when weather-related decisions must be communicated early in the morning or on short notice. Families are also encouraged to follow the Watertown School District's website and Facebook page for district announcements and updates.

Our Commitment to Student Safety
I hope this information helps families better understand the thought process behind late starts, early dismissals, school cancellations, and decisions involving extreme cold. These decisions are never taken lightly. We understand the impact they have on students, parents, staff, and the community, and we do our best to balance the need for students to attend school with the responsibility to keep them safe. As your Superintendent, I take that responsibility very seriously. Thank you for your understanding, cooperation, and continued support as we navigate another South Dakota winter together.

Keeping our Kids

SAFE & HEALTHY

What can look like candy can harm your child. What you need to know to keep kids safe.

Kids learn from the environments that they grow, live, learn and play; and with access to technology, they are learning more than ever, at an earlier age.

With an increase of access & availability (both social & retail) in regards to alcohol, nicotine, vape, delta, and thc products, we are seeing use at younger ages which can impact brain development, decision making, and dependency.

Not only are our youth being targeted with advertising, but there has been an increase in the number of vape shops, medical marijuana dispensaries, and the availability of alcohol, nicotine, and thc products sold at convenience stores, grocery stores, and restaurants in our community.

If we want to keep our kids safe, adults need to:

- Be aware of the severity of these new products that are accessible to youth.
- Educate ourselves on these products (SCAN the QR code).
- Ask ourselves: **WHY** are industries making and marketing these "adult products" **(referred to as copycat products)** to look and taste like things appealing to our youth.

★★★★★
If you enjoyed this content & want to learn more, please scan the QR code. Thank you!









JUST BECAUSE IT'S SOLD IN A COLORFUL PACKAGE, DOESN'T MEAN IT'S SAFE:

- Think about anyone who may mistake the package for candy - kids & adults.
- This may sound silly but storing it in a locked drawer or cabinet is best. Think back to when you were a kid - a cookie jar on top of a fridge is no match for a sweet tooth.
- Read the label. Look at the serving size. If you have concerns or questions - ask.

KIDS ARE MAKING BETTER CHOICES - EVEN AGAINST ALL ODDS

As a society we are making it more challenging; life is not as simple as it once was & we cannot compare youth today to when "we were growing up".

Youth are being faced with an overwhelming amount of synthetic and high potency products, new technology and social media that is a "super peer" influence.

The majority of our kids are thriving & resilient - even with the risk factors they are exposed to.

SO NOW WHAT? WE ALL PLAY A ROLE

Parent/guardian, teacher, trusted adult, neighbor, coach...we can work together for the health and safety of our kids.

- Talk about rules & expectations about substance use. Make it an ongoing conversation, and use current events.
- Teach and model healthy coping, decision making & resistance skills; and good habits even when faced with adversity/challenges.
- Look for ways to engage and encourage youth to feel connected to their school, faith community, neighborhood.

Watertown Healthy Youth coalition works to know the social issues that influence youth and to provide accurate information & resources to students and families .

WWW.DRUGFREE.ORG/ARTICLE/PREVENTION-TIPS-FOR-EVERY-AGE