MCKINLEY EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

OCTOBER 2026

Notes from the Principal

McKinley staff work hard to keep your students safe. The following procedures are in place to make our school a safe place to learn and grow.

Please drop students off at the main entrance of McKinley before 8:20 if they are eating breakfast. Students may play on the playground after 8:00 am.

When dropping off late or picking up early, please ring the doorbell. Let the office know the reason for the tardy or early release.

Communication between home and school is key in the success of your child. Please contact your teacher or the office if you have concerns or questions. Sign up for push notifications on the school website. This will keep you informed about school events. To receive this newsletter and important information about McKinley check out our website watertown.k12.sd.us and download the Watertown School app.

Thank you,

Mrs. Hatton

Reminders

2- Homecoming dismissal(1:20 / No PM Preschool
12 - Native American Day -NO SCHOOL
14 - Picture re-takes
28 - Early Out (12:20) / PM Preschool attends 8:30-11:30; No AM preschool

District App

New App and New Website!



Access the App

1. Go to the App Store or Google Play and search for Watertown School District.
2. Download the app.
3. Open the app, swipe left, and select settings.
4. Choose your default/main school.
5. Turn on notifications to allow you to receive live feed posts immediately.
6. Select district and any/all the schools you wish to receive notifications from.

Access the Website *still under construction

1. Enter http://watertownsd.apptegy.us/o/middle-school in the address bar of your web browser.
2. There are two main ways to navigate the new site: 1) simply scroll down for news, events, and live feed or 2) click on explore at the top of the page for detailed links to find the information you are looking for on the site.
3. Other quick links can be found at the bottom of the page.

Contact Info

McKinley Early Childhood Center
5 12th St SW Watertown, SD 57201
Phone: 605-882-6350
Fax: 605-882-6351
Web: www.watertown.k12.sd.us

Vision and Hearing Screening

Students from Lake Area Technical Institute will come to McKinley for vision/hearing screenings on October 20th. They will screen all of the kindergarten students. Notes will come home if there are any concerns.

Nurse's Nugget

Food Allergies In School:

We would like all parents to be aware that there are children in our school with severe, life-threatening food allergies, particularly to peanuts and tree nuts. This is called anaphylaxis. This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction and can result in death within minutes.

Prevention is the best approach. Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to inform you so that you may remind your child to bring foods to school that are free from peanuts or nut products. In a school setting, cross-contamination is a great risk for this type of allergy. Trace amounts (1/1000th of a peanut/tree nut) can be left on gym equipment, computer keyboards, pencils, door handles, etc., which can cause an anaphylactic reaction in some students.

We want to make the school a safe environment for all students. Anyone wishing further information about anaphylaxis may contact the school nurse or principal.

Nurse Dana



Homecoming


HOMECOMING
PARADE
McKinley Early Childhood Center will dismiss at 1:20.
OCT. 2, 2026
SCHOOL ENDS 1:20 PM
PARADE STARTS AT 2 PM
FOOTBALL GAME AT 7 PM
PURPLE & GOLD - PARADE - TAILGATE - FOOD - FOOTBALL GAME - CHEER LOUD - GO ARROWS
For more information:
https://www.facebook.com/McKinleyElementaryWatertownSD


START
END
Watertown
Watertown Regional Library
Watertown Lawn & Garden
Downtown Sushi Japanese
2nd Street Station
Mavericks Steak & Cocktails
Subway
Lake Area Technical College
Premier Auto Rental
Target Shooting
5th St NE
1st Ave NE
1st Ave SE
2nd Ave SE
3rd Ave SE
1st Ave SW
2nd Ave SW
3rd Ave SW
4th Ave SW
5th Ave SW
Bruhn Ave NE
81

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS

Arrows

For children **3-5** years old

- must reside in the **Watertown School District**
- Screen students for potential delays in **speech/language, motor, cognitive, and social/emotional development**

We screen for potential delays in:

- speech/language
- motor
- cognitive
- social/emotional development



SCREENINGS WILL BE OFFERED ON:

- September 25, 2026
- October 30, 2026
- January 29, 2027
- February 26, 2027

Every child.
Every opportunity.
Every day.

Consistent with federal and state regulations, the Watertown School District engages in ongoing "child Find" services to locate, identify and evaluate all students with disabilities residing within it's jurisdiction, age birth through 21 inclusive.

MRS. POPHAM

MCKINLEY EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER COUNSELOR

HELLO!

HELLO MCKINLEY PARENTS!

I AM KELSEY POPHAM AND I AM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR AT MCKINLEY THIS SCHOOL YEAR! THIS WILL BE MY NINTH YEAR WORKING AS A SCHOOL COUNSELOR IN WATERTOWN AND I AM EXCITED TO BE ABLE TO WORK WITH YOUR CHILD THIS YEAR. IF CHALLENGES OR CONCERNS ARISE, PLEASE KNOW THAT I AM HERE TO HELP IN AN ARRAY OF WAYS. TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW I CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE TO YOUR CHILD OR YOUR FAMILY AND TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT MY ROLE IS AS A COUNSELOR, PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO READ MORE ABOUT MY VARIOUS ROLES BELOW.

AS OF NOW, I WILL BE AT MCKINLEY ON MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS. FOR MORE ASSISTANCE, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONACT ME FROM 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM BY CALLING: (605) 882-6350.



SCHOOL COUNSELOR ROLES

SCHOOL COUNSELORS PERFORM THE FOLLOWING DUTIES IN ORDER TO PROMOTE POSITIVE ACADEMIC, CAREER, AND PERSONAL/SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:

CLASSROOM GUIDANCE
- CONSISTS OF COUNSELOR LED CLASSROOM LESSONS.
- IMPLEMENTATION OF CURRICULUM THAT FOCUSES ON EMPATHY, EMOTION MANAGEMENT, PROBLEM SOLVING, PERSONAL SAFETY AND MORE.
- OCCURS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR.

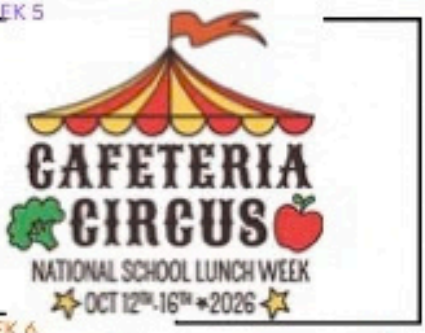
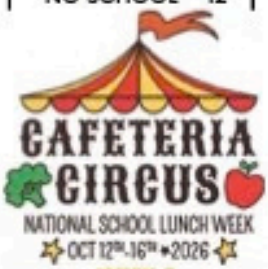
SMALL GROUP COUNSELING
- COORDINATED TO FOCUS ON SPECIFIC SKILLS OR TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH EMOTIONAL SUPPORT.
- TYPICALLY INVOLVES 2-4 STUDENTS.

INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING
- DONE TO ADDRESS A STUDENT'S AREA OF CONCERN THAT IS AFFECTING THEIR ABILITY TO BE SUCCESSFUL AT SCHOOL.
- WILL OCCUR ON A SHORT-TERM, AS-NEEDED BASIS.
- NO LONG-TERM, INTENSIVE THERAPY IS PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR.

COLLABORATION WITH STAFF AND PARENTS
- ATTEND TEAM MEETINGS TO DISCUSS STUDENT PROGRESS AND CONCERNS.
- COMMUNICATE WITH PARENTS ABOUT THEIR CHILD'S SUCCESSES/NEEDS.
- CONNECT PARENTS TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES OR ADDITIONAL OUTSIDE COUNSELING SUPPORT.

OCTOBER 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 5				
			1 BREAKFAST: BB MINI PANCAKE 7G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: CHICKEN TENDERS 12G/18G MASHED POT/GRAVY 2G DINNER ROLL 23G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	2 BREAKFAST: BREAD LOAF 34G YOGURT CUP 15G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: TALIAN DUNKERS 34G/51G MARINARA CUP 7G CORN 17G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK
WEEK 6				
5 BREAKFAST: FRUDEL 38G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: MINI CORN DOGS 20G/30G MAC & CHEESE 7G FR. FRUIT CUP 21G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	6 BREAKFAST: FRENCH TOAST 37G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: QUESIDILLA 33G FIESTA BEANS 17G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	7 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	8 BREAKFAST: STR. MINI BAGEL 42G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: WAFFLES 7G SAUSAGE LINKS 4G JUICE CUP 15G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	9 BREAKFAST: BANANA MUFFIN 31G STRING CHEESE 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 1				
NO SCHOOL 12 	13 BREAKFAST: FUNNEL CAKE 38G YOGURT CUP 15G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: MACHO NACHOS 19G/30G REFRIED BEANS 36G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	14 BREAKFAST: BREAKFAST BAGEL PIZZA 31G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: CARNIVAL CORN DOG BAKED BEANS 30G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	15 BREAKFAST: CINNAMON ROLL 33G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: ACROBAT ALFREDO 12G/26G BROCCOLI 5G GARLIC BREADSTICK 14G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	16 BREAKFAST: MAGIC MUFFIN 30G STRING CHEESE 15G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: CHEESY WHEEL OF FORTUNE 30G GREEN BEANS 4G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK
WEEK 2				
19 BREAKFAST: BREAD SLICE 44G GOGURT 8G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: GRILLED CHICKEN SAND. 28G BAKED BEANS 30G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	20 BREAKFAST: MINI DONUTS 20G STRING CHEESE 15G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: WALKING TACO 22G/30G FR. FRUIT CUP 21G SNACK CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	21 BREAKFAST: BREAK. BITES 20G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: CHICKEN NUGGETS 13G/16G CURLY FRIES 23G SNACK CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	22 BREAKFAST: WAFFLES 37G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: CHILI 10G CIN. ROLL 33G STRING CHEESE 15G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	23 BREAKFAST: DONUT HOLES 7G YOGURT CUP 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
WEEK 3				
26 BREAKFAST: CINI MINI 41G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: CHICKEN TENDERS 12G/18G CARROTS 5G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	27 BREAKFAST: MINI JOHN 13G GOGURT 8G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: SOFT SHELL TACO 12G/23G CILANTRO LIME RICE 19G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	28 BREAK. PIZZA 27G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: POPCORN CHICKEN 14G MASHED POT/GRAVY 2G DINNER ROLL 23G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	29 BREAKFAST: CRESCENT 38G STRING CHEESE 15G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: FR. TOAST STIX 38G SAUSAGE PATTY HASHBROWN PATTY 15G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK	30 BREAKFAST: GLAZED PULL APART 7G YOGURT CUP 15G H.S./M.S. VARIETY BREAKFAST CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE MILK LUNCH: GOULASH 52G CORN 17G DINNER ROLL 23G CHOICE FRUIT CHOICE VEGGIES CHOICE MILK