

WMS

815.335.2364

Jan. 2017

School Office

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|------------|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | 2 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK | 3 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK | 4 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK | 5 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK | 6 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK | 7 |
| 8 | 9 School Resumes 7:50 a.m. 7 GBB Tryouts 3:10- 4:45 @ McNair FAST Meeting, 7pm | 10 7 GBB Tryouts 3:10- 4:45 McNair | 11 Blood Drive 1:30 - 6:00 p.m. | 12 | 13 End of Second Quarter | 14 Wrestling Tournament at Harlem HS, 7:00am |
| 15 | 16 NO SCHOOL MLK Jr. Day | 17 Sport Pictures, 3:05 | 18 | 19 | 20 2 nd Quarter Report Cards Go Home | 21 Wrestling Tournament @ Byron HS, 8:30am |
| 22 | 23 7/8 GBB @ H, 4:30 | 24 Wrestling @ H, 4:00 | 25 7 GBB @ Harlem, 4:30 8 GBB @ H, 4:30 | 26 | 27 | 28 Father Daughter Dance, 7-10pm |
| 29 | 30 Wrestling @ H, 4:00 | 31 6 GBB @ H, 5:00 | Cathy Finley Principal Patrick Brûlé Assistant Principal | | | |

***All dates are subject to change. Check daily announcements online for current information.

<http://www.winnebagoschools.org/schools/middleschool/announcements>

Sports Registration is Now Available

Students interested in Wrestling or Girls Basketball in January can complete their registration on-line at:

<http://bagoathletics.com/hq/middle-school-athletics-registration/>.

Students need to have all registration, fees and physical paperwork before they can participate in any sports activities.

Father Daughter Dance

Our Student Council organizes our Annual Father Daughter Dance. This year, the dance will be held on Saturday, January 28th from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. in our middle school gym. Tickets will go on sale in the office Wednesday, January 18th for \$15.00 per couple.

Second Quarter Grades

Second quarter report cards will be sent home with students on Friday, January 13th. HomeLogic is a good place to check on students' grades on a regular basis. If you have any trouble with the website for HomeLogic: <https://homelogic.winnebagoschools.org/>, please call the school office at 815.335.2364.

Upcoming Dates in February - MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- Wednesday, February 1st - Early Dismissal at 1:00pm
- Friday, February 3rd - Mother Son Bowling, 7:00pm
- Saturday, February 4th - Solo Ensemble Contest at Meridian

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PRIDE STUDENTS IN NOVEMBER:

- 6th Grade: A. Arriaga and S. Cassens
- 7th Grade: L. Viel and T. Shumate
- 8th Grade: L. Richardson and A. Elias

Do You Speak Alien?

Do you ever feel like strange space creatures landed and moved into your kids' rooms? Many parents and professionals find it hard to relate to kids when they hit the tumultuous teen years. Even more parents find it hard to get these strange teen creatures to actually converse. Many Love and Logic Parents have found a great tool: The use of questions -

especially questions that show an interest in the teen. When we ask about their likes and interests, it can really open them up to sharing their lives. Sadly, some adults do just the opposite. They run from everything their kids enjoy - because it sounds alien. From fashion to music to technology, a lot of what teens are into can seem foreign. But a few minutes asking our child about a favorite band or activity may go a long way in keeping the lines of communication open. Some kids conclude: "If I can't talk to you about the music I like, how can we talk about important personal stuff?" Wise parents know this is a crucial time to stay engaged. We may want to lean away from all the odd new interests. Even if our kids' interests are outside of our tastes (were our tastes the same as our parents?), taking an interest in them can keep our kids feeling close and feeling noticed. Being noticed is a powerful need that kids will often get met in unhealthy ways. Of course, if the activities are destructive or opposed to our values, then we need to do more than just notice them. There is a time to show interest and a time to set limits. In the end, the time we spend asking our kids about the things that matter to them and the time we spend engaging with and learning about their interests will be time well-spent. Who knows? We may even learn to speak some alien.

Attendance Notes

A couple of friendly reminders:

1. Students who do not feel well are still expected to see the nurse or come to the office. At that time, then, we can help the student to reach a parent or guardian if they need to go home. If a student happens to reach you on their cell phone, please direct them to the office. We've had a couple of instances of parents coming to pick up their child, and we don't even know that there is a problem.
2. The primary explained absence would be a parental trip or vacation. Except where extenuating circumstances are present, these absences should be arranged in advance with written notice to the school office. Explained absences will include family trips and events such as "Take Your Child to Work" day. Make up of work missed during this absence is permitted at full credit but the responsibility for such make up is on the student. Students will be given at least 1 day for every day missed. **The**

office must approve explained absences at least one day in advance of the absence with written notice from the parent/guardian if the student is to be gone for more than three class periods. Planned absences during the last week of the grading period are discouraged. Please note that students will be given only two days of work prior to the absence when approved. Other assignments that would be missed will be provided upon the student's return. A prior clearance form must be picked up from the office in advance of the absence. **Failure to complete the appropriate procedure will result in denial of the request and/or the absence recorded as unexcused meaning no credit given for the make-up work.** Full credit will be given for all make-up work due to an explained absence as long as the aforementioned procedure is followed. Any work given to the student prior to their absence is to be completed and turned in upon their return unless otherwise noted by the teacher.

More detailed, important information about policies and procedures for attendance and absences can be found in our [2016-2017 District 323 Student/Parent Handbook](#) starting on Page 5.

From the Nurse's Office

Happy New Year! Starting in January, I will be conducting vision screenings on all 8th graders. This screening is required by the state of Illinois. Look for letters to be sent home in January or February if your son or daughter does not "pass" this basic screening test and needs further evaluation by an eye doctor. While 6th and 7th graders are not typically mass screened, if you have a child in 6th or 7th grade that you would like me to screen, please email me. I will be happy add them to my list.

Also please remember to keep us updated on any new or changing health concerns with your son/daughter as we start the new calendar year. Middle school is a time of rapid change, both physically and emotionally, and we are here to help! Please keep us in the loop with any changes in your child's health status, or new diagnoses or medications. I am always available by email or phone--call or email me anytime.

Wishing you and your family a very happy and healthy 2017,

Mary Kate Skaggs, MSN, RN (skaggs@winnebagoschools.org)
School Nurse

Have You Asked Your Student

1. What color is your card on the Spear-It wall? What have you done to earn the stickers and levels for PBIS? We are making plans for a special activity on January 11th?
2. How are you on supplies? Do you need any more pencils or pens or paper or....?

STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Students who are driven to school in the morning and/or picked up after school should be using Door DD. That's the door on the North Side of the building along the cafeteria/kitchen. Please pull all the way forward to avoid traffic backing up to Elida Street. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Special Thanks

Thank you to Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance Program. They made a donation to Winnebago Middle School supporting educational programs encouraging the next generation to pursue studies and careers in fields involving math and science.

Christmas Tea

It was very nice to see our great turn out this year. We were very glad to have all of the parents and families and community members share their day with us!!





