

Boscobel Area Schools District Newsletter December 2022



SCHOOL DAY MODIFICATIONS

In the event of inclement weather, the District will operate on one of three schedules: a) School Closing, b) Two (2) Hour Delay, or c) Early Dismissal. School day modifications will be announced over the following radio and television stations:

- KDTH - Dubuque - FM 92.9
- KIYX- Dubuque- FM 106.1
- WDMP- Dodgeville - FM 99.3
- WGLR - Lancaster FM 97.7
- WIZM - La Crosse - FM 93.3
- WPRE - Prairie du Chien - FM 94.3
- WPVL- Platteville - FM 107.1
- WRCO - Richland Center - FM 100.9
- WVRQ - Viroqua - FM 102.3
- WKOW TV27
- WISC TV3
- WKBT TV8
- NBC TV15
- WXOW TV19
- Skylert
- Facebook



State of Wisconsin District and School Accountability and Performance Reports

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction recently released the state accountability report cards for public school districts covering the 2021-2022 school year. The State of Wisconsin requires that all school districts include a notice in a local newspaper and on their website with accountability ratings.

Pursuant to 2015 Wisconsin Act 55 section 115.385(4) of the state statute, the Boscobel Area School District provides a copy of the school's accountability reports published by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) located on the district website at <https://www.boscobel.k12.wi.us/> under the District Academic Performance tab.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) creates School Report Cards and a District Report Card for every publicly funded school and district in the state. The report cards are intended to help all schools and districts utilize data on specific measures to target improvement efforts to ensure students are ready for the next educational step - including the next grade level, graduation, college, and careers. These report cards can be accessed online at <https://dpi.wi.gov/families-students/data/report-cards>.

A school or district's overall accountability score places the school/district into one of five overall accountability ratings:

<i>Accountability Rating Category</i>	<i>Accountability Score Range</i>	
	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Maximum</i>
Significantly Exceeds Expectations - ★★★★★	83	100
Exceeds Expectations - ★★★★☆	70	82.9
Meets Expectations - ★★★☆☆	58	69.9
Meets Few Expectations - ★★☆☆☆	48	57.9
Fails to Meet Expectations - ★☆☆☆☆	0	47.9

Boscobel Area Schools 2021-2022 state rating report cards.

Level	Accountability Rating	Accountability Score
District	Meets Expectations	67.1
Elementary- K4-5	Meets Expectations	61.1
Middle School- 6-8	Exceeds Expectations	73.7
High School- 9-12	Meets Expectations	66.5

BOSCOBEL AREA  SCHOOL DISTRICT

YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS!

The Boscobel Area School District has been examining and prioritizing our district-wide facility needs as part of our long-term facilities planning process. Before we can finalize the first phase, we want to hear from you.



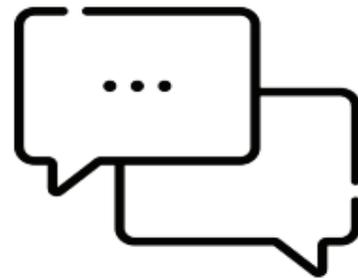
Please complete the Facility Planning Survey by **December 23**.

To obtain additional surveys or if you need a survey please call the District Office at 608.375.4164. The survey code can only be used once.

LEARN MORE AT OUR

Community Conversations

Join us to learn more about our facility needs and the proposed solution before you complete the survey. District staff and partners (Plunkett Raysich Architects, Findorff, Robert W. Baird) will be available for questions.



- » Wednesday, Dec. 7, 6:00 p.m. | Virtual presentation
[Visit our website for Zoom link details](#)
- » Monday, Dec. 12, 6:00 p.m. | In-person information booth
[Middle-High School](#)
- » Wednesday, Dec. 14, 6:00 p.m. | In-person presentation
[Middle-High School](#)

MORE INFORMATION

Lisa Wallin-Kapinus, *District Administrator*
lisa@boscobel.k12.wi.us or (608)375-4164

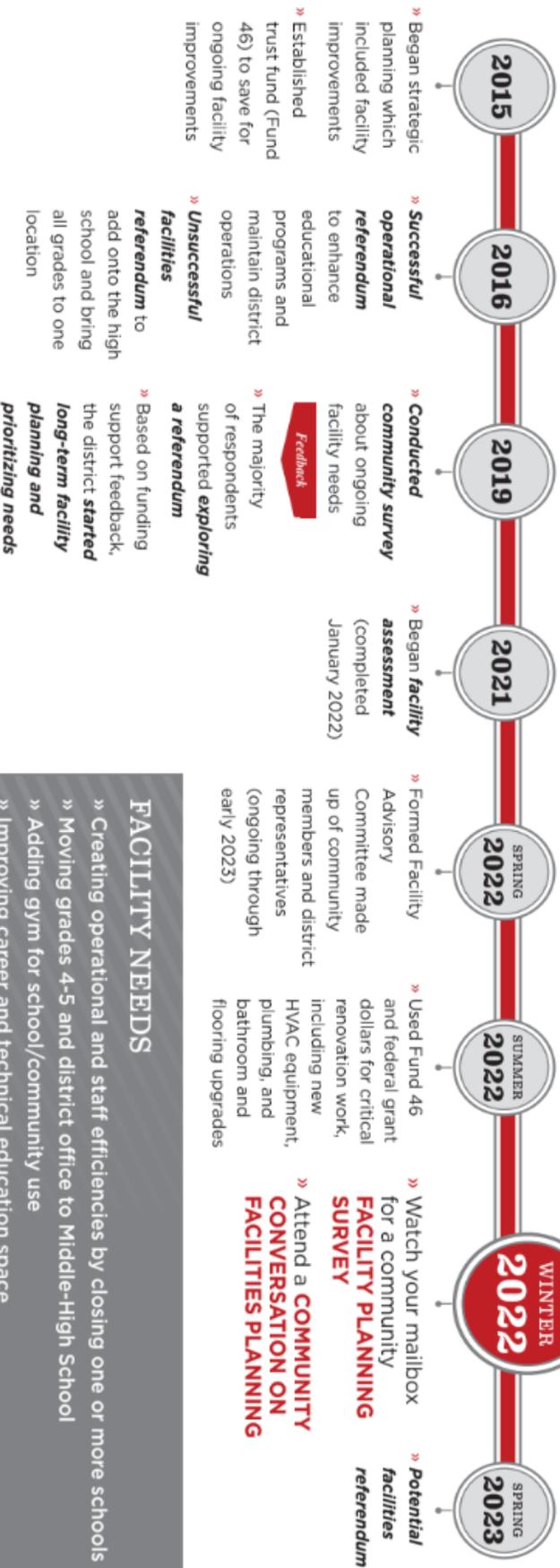
www.boscobel.k12.wi.us

BOSCOBEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



The Boscobel Area School District has been examining our schools, evaluating our operating costs, and prioritizing our district-wide facility needs. We now need your input on our long-term facilities planning process.

Facility Planning Timeline



FACILITY NEEDS

- » Creating operational and staff efficiencies by closing one or more schools
- » Moving grades 4-5 and district office to Middle-High School
- » Adding gym for school/community use
- » Improving career and technical education space
- » Addressing prioritized district-wide maintenance and renovation needs

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Our Bulldogs made the most of the first snow of the season!



The Boscobel Elementary Student Council hosted a “Terrific Turkey” holiday food drive. They collected over 1350 items that were distributed to Boscobel food pantries. Mrs. Erickson’s 2nd grade class won a prize for donating the most items.



ELEMENTARY NEWS

"Old MacDonald had a Farm. Ee I Ee I O!" 🐄 🐷 🚗

Our 4K farm unit got off to a great start!



ELEMENTARY NEWS

Our little learners are having a great time with all of our Fall themed lessons!



Dot-dot.
Not a lot.



Making
& eating
Spookly the
square
pumpkin



Decorating
Pumpkins



Measuring Pumpkins



Gotta
Glitter



Carving &
exploring a
pumpkin

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Our 4K Fall/Halloween Festival was full of fun!

We want to give a big SHOUT OUT to all of our parent & 5th grader volunteers, who helped make our festival spooktacular!



ELEMENTARY NEWS

4th graders come in on Fridays to read to Mrs. Entenza's class! We talked about how the 4th graders used to be in our class and now they are great readers and we will all be soon as well. They really enjoy their new role models!



ELEMENTARY NEWS

Mrs. Erickson's class and second grade team had a wonderful Fall Festival!
Thank you to everyone who made this possible!



ELEMENTARY NEWS

The second grade classes hosted Grandparents Day on Oct 23. Grandparents and special guests were invited to join the second graders for some special activities.



ELEMENTARY NEWS

Miss King's third grade class had a spooktacular time celebrating Halloween!



ELEMENTARY NEWS

Look who we found in the audience at the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra!

Our third grade Bulldogs!



ELEMENTARY NEWS

Mrs. Lenz's class made ornaments to be placed on the Christmas tree in the Rotunda of the State Capitol Building. The theme this year was

"Wisconsin Waters."

Students created scenes of how they best like to enjoy the waterways of our state.



Mrs. Young's kindergarten class enjoyed dressing up and celebrating Halloween! They have also been talking and writing about all the things they are thankful for!



ELEMENTARY NEWS



The elementary Student Council honored our local Veterans with a Veterans Day program! The students read poems, explained the history of Veterans Day, and recognized our Veterans with flowers and notes!

Thank you, Veterans!



STAFF FUN

Rock! 🎸 Paper! 📄 Scissors! ✂️

Mrs. Sierzant, Mrs. Bohringer, and Mrs. Erickson's costumes this week were hard to beat!



Some amazing costumes put together by our great staff!



Save the Date! Mark your Calendars!

- Dec. 8th – Gingerbread Houses Grades ECH-2
- Feb. 20th – Math Night
(Feb. 21st snow date) Grades ECH-5
- April 27th – STEM Night Grades ECH-5

*A free meal is served at 5:15pm.
Family Fun Night starts at 6:00pm.*

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

6th grade math class is piloting a new curriculum called Illustrative Mathematics! This problem-based curriculum makes rigorous middle school mathematics accessible to all learners. In a problem-based curriculum, students spend most of their time in class working on carefully crafted and sequenced problems. Teachers help students understand the problems, ask questions to push their thinking, and orchestrate discussions to be sure that the mathematical takeaways are clear. Learners gain a rich and lasting understanding of mathematical concepts and procedures and experience applying this knowledge to new situations. Students frequently collaborate with their classmates—they talk about math, listen to each other’s ideas, justify their thinking, and critique the reasoning of others. They gain experience communicating their ideas both verbally and in writing, developing skills that will serve them well throughout their lives. Below are a few snapshots of our math learning in action. We are currently in Unit 2 where students are learning to understand and use the terms “ratio,” “rate,” “equivalent ratios,” “per,” “at this rate,” “constant speed,” and “constant rate,” and to recognize when two ratios are or are not equivalent. They are representing ratios as expressions, and representing equivalent ratios with double number line diagrams, tape diagrams, and tables. They are using these terms and representations in reasoning about situations involving color mixtures, recipes, unit pricing, and constant speed. Here are a few snapshots of our Unit 2 learning in action!



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

The Boscobel Middle School Student Council hosted a Penny War. The money raised from the grade level competition was used to buy Thanksgiving Day meal foods including turkeys, stuffing, cranberries, and pies. The donation went to Boscobel CAP food pantry. Pictured are the members of the Boscobel Middle School Student Council.



MIDDLE/ HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Boscobel Middle and High School Student Council sold fall leaves to students and staff to raise money for the local food pantry. The total amount raised was \$260!



The High School band traded in their uniforms for costumes and headed to Galena for the annual Halloween Parade!

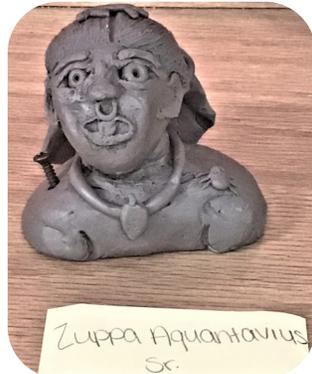
The crowd was excited and amazed as the band made their way through the darkened street playing "Uma Thurman" by Fall Out Boy



MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

High School General Art students recently finished their portrait unit by making 3D busts with modeling clay!

They started by forming a human skull, then inserting eyeballs, & adding lips, hair, etc. We love the way they brought these creations to life!



MS/HS - Afterschool Academic Support Program

Monday-Thursday 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm .

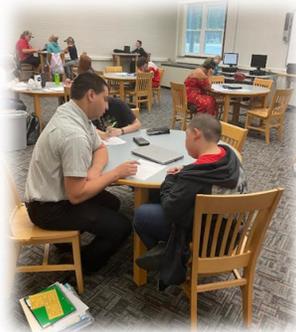
This program is available for any students in grades 6-12 who would like assistance with schoolwork or just a quiet place to study. The program is open in the MS/HS LMC, Monday - Thursday, 3:30 - 6:00 pm. Snacks are provided for those who attend.

Attention Seniors! Mrs. Scallon will be available at the after school Academic Support Program on Monday, December 19, 3:30 - 6:00 pm, to assist with scholarships.

If you have any questions or would like to know more information please reach out.

Thank you,

Julie Schellhorn
schejuli@boscobel.k12.wi.us
(608)375-4161
ext.2331



MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Winter Concerts

The music department invites you to their Winter Concert on Monday, December 12th. The concert will begin at 6:00 p.m., in the big gym, and will feature the sixth grade band, sixth grade choir, middle school band, and the middle school choir.

The high school portion of the concert will begin at 7:15 p.m. and will feature the high school band, high school men's choir, high school women's choir, and the high school mixed choir. Come get into the holiday spirit as you enjoy some of your favorite Christmas carols!

Upcoming Events:

Conference Honor Band @ Fennimore: Jan. 7th @ 4:30

Conference Honor Choir @ Ithaca: Jan. 28th @ 4:30

MS Pops Concert: March 9th @ 6:00

HS Pops Concert: March 9th @ 7:15

MS & HS Solo and Ensemble @ Riverdale: March 11th

Jazz Festival @ Fennimore: March 21st

State Solo and Ensemble: April 29th

Large Group @ Boscobel: May 3rd

MS Spring Concert: May 10th @ 6:00

HS Spring Concert: May 10th @ 7:30



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Some students from Mrs. Dalton's Transition class helped unload and unpack a food truck as the Northern Grant County Food Pantry is preparing for Thanksgiving. The Transition class will continue to help unload and unpack trucks every Friday morning. The students felt a great sense of worth and are looking forward to helping out more!



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Mrs. Dalton's Transition class have spent Wednesdays and Thursday mornings delivering coffee and hot apple cider to the district office, elementary and high school staff members in honor of American Education Week.



Thank you to Ms. Moran and her business, Soaring Skills, for their generous candy donation to be used for student council basketball concessions.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations to this season's award winners that were presented at the cross country banquet recently!

Aubry Seep = Most Improved & Newcomer of the Year awards

Gus Olson = Bulldog & Newcomer of the Year awards

Aleya Kliesner = Bulldog & Captain awards

Eli Biba = Most Improved award

Nora Jillson = MVP & Most Dedicated awards

Skyler Carlin = Captain award

Gabe Davis = MVP, Most Dedicated, and Captain awards

Easton Carlin = Captain award

Way to go everyone! [#BoscobelPride](#)



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Chemists at Work!

These Honors Chemistry students are developing their laboratory skills and analyzing how substances interact with each other.

Can you identify what makes a good scientist?



Thank you to Ms. Moran and her business, Soaring Skills, for the generous donation of a Ninja blender and espresso machine!

We are excited to start trying some new drinks and smoothies!

Bulldogs, any ideas of what we should try first?



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Joint collaboration is the key to a successful event when providing youth with hands-on, relevant work experiences.

That's what the Iowa-Lafayette-Grant County Community on Transition (CCoT) has been doing for several years.

Students get a "real" glimpse at what types of skill sets, postsecondary education and training opportunities are required through Mentoring Day.

The CCoT distributes the workload amongst its members to help set up this event in Dodgeville in October. They model their event after Disability Mentoring Day.

In October, Mrs. Dalton and Mrs. Brownlee along with 10 Boscobel Juniors and Seniors, joined in to total over 150 students, along with staff chaperones, numerous agencies, students from ten area schools and 36 local business partners to make Mentoring Day a lifelong experience.

This event has shown to make a big impact on students in planning for future careers, training and education!



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Seniors in Miss Salzgeber's Theme Writing volunteered to partake in this year's Veterans Day program. This year's program featured the six branches of the military. The students presented information about each branch while their classmates displayed the branch flag. Finally, Mr. Dan Swenson (Air Force), Mr. Kyle Kinney (Army), Mr. Cody Adams (Marines), and Mr. Jason Sparrgrove (Navy) shared their personal experiences as members of their respective branches.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Grandma's new cutting board made by a student in John Moran's woodworking class. The cutting board is made with traditional woodworking processes along with epoxy resin and color tint for the purple center and laser engraver for the text.



Students in John Moran's Intro to Technology class are exploring piloting of drones and learning about the rules and regulations associated with them.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

BHS was fortunate to have Bethany Schroeder present to the AP Chemistry and AP Biology classes about Forensics Science. Bethany is a 2018 UW-Platteville graduate with a degree in Chemistry with an emphasis in Criminalistics. She currently works as a Forensics Scientist – category 2 for the Texas Department of Public Safety. Bethany works in the lab analyzing illegal substances. The students were introduced to the different branches, training, and equipment utilized by a forensics scientist. They were amazed at the different pictures of her cases and the amount of cases that she is required to complete within a month. Following are some comments from a few students.

“I thought that it was very interesting because of all of the different ways to identify people.” – T.B.

“I thought that the fingerprint testing was interesting because of how extensive the database was. The idea that you can choose certain parts of the fingertip to focus on and the speed of the system is awesome in my opinion.” - J.L.

“I thought that it was interesting that there are so many disciplines and categories. I think that the toxicology category is so interesting.” – L.O.

“Before the presentation, I did not know much about forensic science. I really enjoyed her presentation, and I would like to know even more now. She did a very nice job, and her pictures were super neat. I was most interested in the drug examination process and how it’s transported.” - K.K.

“I find the fingerprint slide interesting because there are common and rare fingerprints. Everyone at my table checked their fingerprint when learning fingerprint facts.” - S.W.

Fun fact – Bethany is the daughter of Boscobel’s very own principal, Mr. Schroeder!



Senior/Baby Picture Information

Senior pictures need to be turned into Mr. Marc Chiefari by Friday, February 1stth. This is due to a Spring yearbook. They will be in color. The same picture will be used for The Boscobel Dial and the yearbook. **Pictures need to be in a vertical pose.** → 

You may choose to send a digital image instead of an actual picture. (A digital image is actually *preferred*.) Digital images should be in JPEG or TIF format with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi. Pictures should be sent to chiemarc@boscobel.k12.wi.us Mr. Chiefari will send a response if/when he receives any pictures that are emailed to him so that you know he received it/them. If you do not receive an email confirmation, please call him as your email might never have reached him due to being caught in the District email filter.

Boscobel Multimedia Production & Design Class is offering parents/guardians of seniors the opportunity to place a baby picture/message in the yearbook for your graduate. There is **no charge** for this service; we are hoping to get the participation of all parents/guardians. In these messages you may show your love and support by sending a baby picture and a message of approximately **50 words or less** to your child. Any baby pictures and information received will be kept a “secret” from the graduate. If interested, send your baby picture and information to Mr. Chiefari at the high school. A digital image or a printed picture may be sent along with the message. **Please put the name of the “baby” on back of the picture if you send an actual picture.**

Due to space limitations, we are asking that each senior’s family send only one baby picture and one message. Individual circumstances will be taken into consideration. The senior section will be set up similar to the past yearbooks, with each student receiving one-fourth of a page for their senior picture, senior information, and baby pictures/messages sent by parents/guardians. *Everything* must fit in that allotted space.

If you send a printed baby picture, it will not leave Boscobel High School; Mr. Chiefari will scan it and give the picture back to the student/parent. Pictures will be kept safe until they are returned to you or your graduate. The goal is to return baby pictures prior to graduation.

If you would like to purchase a yearbook for your graduate, please use www.jostens.com. Yearbooks may be purchased from Mr. Chiefari. Checks are to be made payable to Boscobel High School. Yearbooks will be delivered in the fall of the 2022-23 school year.

If you have any questions, please call Mr. Marc Chiefari at 375-4161, Ext. 2332, or email him at chiemarc@boscobel.k12.wi.us

NOTES FROM THE NURSE

DHS RESPIRATORY ALERT: The Wisconsin Department of Health Services recommends that Wisconsinites should get a flu shot, an updated COVID-19 booster, and take additional steps to protect themselves and others this season as cases of respiratory illness rise nationwide. With respiratory viruses such as COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) circulating at high levels nationwide, the 2022-23 respiratory season has the potential to be severe, especially for young children and older adults. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has issued an alert to Wisconsin healthcare providers and urges everyone to get all recommended vaccines, including the updated COVID-19 booster and the flu vaccine, to help prevent and slow the spread of respiratory illnesses. [View the entire news release.](#)

RESPIRATORY UPDATE: Public health officials expect that COVID-19 cases will increase – along with other respiratory viruses such as respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza and rhino/enterovirus, all of which have very similar symptoms to COVID-19. We have already seen an increase in respiratory viruses and hospitalizations among children. Students and staff should stay home when ill and return to school when symptoms have subsided



(including when fever-free for 24 hours). Testing (including home testing) is highly encouraged for symptomatic people and for close contacts of positive cases. Students and staff should report test results to the school nurse or health para. See also our COVID protocol on the district's website. Please contact the health para or the school nurse if you would like a free COVID-19 home test kit.

COVID VACCINE: Boscobel Pharmacy has Pfizer and Moderna available for children. If interested and your child is under 12 years old, please call them to make an appointment. (This planning allows the pharmacy to carefully plan for the vaccination for younger children and to promote a positive vaccination experience for your child.) You may also reach out to Grant County Health Department for questions about COVID vaccine for children.



Please refer to the following links for more information about COVID vaccination for children:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>

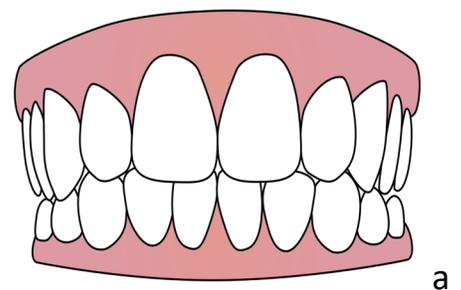
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/planning/children/6-things-to-know.html>

“FLU” (INFLUENZA): Grant County Health Dept. provided flu vaccinations to many students and staff on October 20th. Flu shots were given to students who returned a signed permission form and who were present at school or came in for the vaccination on that day. If you would still like to have your child vaccinated, contact Grant County Health Dept. (723-6416) or your child’s health care provider. Please be vigilant and keep your child home from school when they are ill. Students should not return to school after illness until they are fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medications) for at least 24 hours. A fever is considered to be 100-100.4° F or higher.



REFERRAL REMINDER: Vision and hearing referrals were sent by mail in November. If you have received a referral, winter break might be an excellent opportunity to schedule a follow-up appointment for your child. Please contact me at the elementary school if you have any questions. Adequate hearing and vision are important for children to learn!

DENTAL HEALTH: Teeth-For-Life offers a preventive dental program for ALL children in the district. A dental provider will come to the school to provide the services. The program includes: dental cleaning assessment to determine if sealants can be done, sealants if appropriate, a fluoride varnish treatment, and oral health education with a new toothbrush. A follow-up letter will be sent home to describe what was completed and what is recommended for future needs. All procedures will follow recommendations from the American Dental Association and Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s recommendations for school-based dental sealant programs. Services do NOT include a dental exam or dental x-rays, therefore a visit to a dentist at least once a year is recommended. If you would like permission form, please contact the school nurse.



CPR/AED TRAINING FOR MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: CPR with AED training is required in health classes for students in grades 7-12. This training will be provided mid-winter by Mrs. Brinkman.

SCOLIOSIS LETTERS: Parents of 8th grade boys and girls and parents of 6th grade girls will receive a scoliosis screening letter in the mail. Scoliosis is a lateral (sideways) curvature of the spine. It is a spinal disorder that usually appears during the early teen years. After you have completed the home test for scoliosis, please return it to school. If you have any questions about the results of your screening, contact your child's doctor/health care provider or call me at 375-4165.



BED BUGS

You have probably heard the saying “Sleep tight, don’t let the bed bugs bite.” Unfortunately, bed bugs are making a comeback in the U.S. The name comes from a tendency to live between mattresses and feed on occupants at night. Bed bugs do not fly, jump, or travel well outside...but they can move quickly over floors, walls, ceilings, and furniture. Bed bugs are wingless, approximately ¼ inch in length with a flattened oval shape and rusty, brown color. Newly-hatched nymphs are much smaller and a little lighter in color. A bed bug can survive several months to a year without a blood meal. Bed bugs can be found in apartments, hotels, homes, shelters, dorms, and nursing homes. They are active travelers and can be transported in luggage, boxes, clothing, furniture, and sometimes hair. Infestations are not necessarily tied to sanitary conditions. When looking for bed bugs, check on the seams, tufts, or folds of mattresses, bed frames, and head boards. They may also be behind baseboards, pictures, frames, windows, door casings, loosened wall paper, curtains, in cracks on walls, or behind electrical wall plates. The first sign of a bed bug infestation is the appearance of small rusty spots (droppings or blood spots) on your mattress or bed linens. Bed bugs feed on bare skin while sleeping. Red itchy welts are an indication of an infestation. It may take as long as 14 days for a welt to appear from a bed bug bite. Bed bugs are not known to transmit any diseases to humans. Thus, they are not considered a public health hazard and cases are not required to be reported to public health authorities as a communicable disease. However, precautions may need to be taken at school for known cases to prevent transfer of an infestation into the building. Complete elimination of a bed bug infestation may be difficult without using a pest-management company. Do-it-yourself measures sometimes cause problems because of misuse of pesticides or scattering of bugs. If using products yourself, make sure the product is for bed bugs and read the label completely. Other ways you can help are:

- Reduce clutter in your home.
- Vacuum areas where bed bugs are seen (including mattress and box springs) and dispose of contents in sealed bag.
- Cover mattress and box spring with zippered encasements and seal openings with tape.
- Wash bedding and clothing in hot water (120 degrees F) and dry on high temperature. Store items in sealed bags.
- Inspect furniture brought into your home. Inspect hotel rooms for signs of bed bugs before unpacking.

Information adapted from: <http://www.co.grant.wi.gov> (Health Department/Information/Bed Bug Brochure)

MENINGITIS - PROTECT YOUR CHILD: Public health authorities recommend that teenagers and college-bound students be immunized against a potentially fatal bacterial infection called meningococcal disease, a type of meningitis. Meningococcal disease refers to any illness caused by bacteria called *Neisseria meningitidis*, also known as meningococcus [muh-ning-goh-KOK-us]. These illnesses are often severe and can be deadly. They include infections of the lining of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis) and bloodstream infections (bacteremia or septicemia). These bacteria spread through the exchange of respiratory and throat secretions like spit (e.g., by living in close quarters, kissing). Doctors treat meningococcal disease with antibiotics, but quick medical attention is extremely important. Keeping up-to-date with recommended immunizations is the best defense against meningococcal disease. There are several vaccines that protect against the different types of *N. meningitidis* bacteria. Three vaccines protect against four of the five types (A, C, Y, and W-135). The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends children get their first dose of meningococcal vaccine when they are between 11 and 12 years and get a booster dose when they are 16 years of age. Two vaccines protect against the fifth type of *N. meningitidis* bacteria, strain B. The ACIP recommends this vaccine be given to people aged 16-23 years. The ideal age to vaccinate is between 16 and 18 years, to provide protection when individuals are at greatest risk of getting meningococcal disease. If a teenager missed getting the vaccine altogether, they should ask their healthcare provider about getting it before graduation, especially if they are about to move into a college dorm or military barracks.

About Meningococcal Disease

There are multiple serogroups of *Neisseria meningitidis*. Serogroups B, C, and Y cause the majority of disease in the United States. Serogroup W and nongroupable strains cause a small portion of disease. Meningococcal disease is often misdiagnosed as something less serious because early symptoms are similar to common viral illnesses. Symptoms of meningococcal disease may include high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, sensitivity to light, confusion, exhaustion and/or a rash. The disease can progress rapidly and can cause death or permanent disability within 48 hours of initial symptoms.

Rates of meningococcal disease have been declining in the United States since the late 1990s. In 2017, there were about 350 total cases of meningococcal disease reported (incidence rate of 0.11 cases per 100,000 persons). Anyone can get meningococcal disease, but rates of disease are highest in children younger than 1 year old, with a second peak in adolescence. Among adolescents and young adults, those 16 through 23 years old have the highest rates of meningococcal disease.

Meningococcal disease is spread through direct contact with respiratory and/or oral secretions from infected persons (for example, kissing or sharing drinking containers). It can develop and spread quickly throughout the body, so early diagnosis and treatment are very important. Even with immediate treatment, the disease can kill an otherwise healthy young person within hours of first symptoms. Of those who survive, up to 20 percent may endure permanent disabilities, including brain damage, deafness and limb amputations.

Lifestyle factors common among teenagers, college students and military personnel are believed to put them at increased risk of contracting meningococcal disease. These lifestyle factors include crowded living situations (for example, dormitories, sleep-away camps), active or passive smoking and irregular sleeping habits. Teens should avoid sharing eating utensils and drinking out of the same container, since infections may spread through this type of close contact.

For more information about meningococcal disease and immunization, please feel free to contact Grant County Health Department (608-723-6416) or visit the following websites to learn more about meningococcal disease, vaccine information, and public health resources.

- A Department of Health Services Meningococcal Disease Fact Sheet available at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/P-42072.htm>
- [American Committee of Immunization Practice Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Meningitis](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [meningococcal meningitis information](#).
- [Meningitis Foundation of America](#), <https://www.musa.org/>
- [National Meningitis Association](#), <http://www.nmaus.org/>

HOLIDAY FUN PAGE



WINTER WORD FIND



S K I I N G S N O W B O O H T
S F I R E P L A C E I N G E O
L I E A R M U F F S C N Y T S
E W S B C O L T R A E S T A C
D I M L R O W S N O U G H E A
D N U I A U L O W P S H T O R
I T F Z E S A D E H A T A O F
N R B Z B A E R O W P L Y I I
G C O A T O T L Y D M W L C R
I T O R H A F R O T A S U I E
P O T D E C E M B E R I L C L
L A S N C R O V I N C L O L R
O A D H J K T C E S H O V E L
W J A N U A R Y O E S A H S T
M I T T E N S S W E A T E R E L

BLIZZARD

BOOTS

COAT

COCOA

COLD

DECEMBER

EARMUFFS

FEBRUARY

FIREPLACE

FROSTY

HAT

ICE

ICICLES

JANUARY

MARCH

MITTENS

PLOW

SCARF

SHOVEL

SKIING

SLEDDING

SNOW

SWEATER

WINTER

