

# WELCOME BACK TO WAKANDA ELEMENTARY

BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION AUGUST 2021



## MESSAGE FROM MRS. BRANCH

I would like to welcome everyone back to school and extend a special welcome to all of our new students and their families. The staff and I are looking forward to another exciting year of learning at Wakanda Elementary School!

As the school-year approaches, I wanted to share a few items that may assist you in preparing for the year. I encourage you to review the resources in this newsletter to learn more about our school hours, food service programs, and updates to our school day.

We are excited to begin the 2021-2022 school year at Wakanda Elementary. We will strive to provide the best educational experience possible for your child. If at any time during the school year you would like to contact me, please feel free to call 715-232-3898 ext. 70102 or reach out via e-mail at [shannon\\_branch@msd.k12.wi.us](mailto:shannon_branch@msd.k12.wi.us)

We look forward to another school year full of learning and adventure!

~Mrs. Shannon Branch, Principal

## SCHOOL HOURS

8:30A.M. is our Warning Bell

8:35A.M. is our Start Time

3:30P.M. is our Dismissal Time

## WELCOME STAFF

We would like to welcome a few new members to our Wakanda Star community:

- Miss Hannah Bunkowski, Kindergarten Teacher
- Miss Liz Klein, Special Education Teacher
- Miss Mariyah Miller, Paraeducator
- Miss Rachel Redepenning, Paraeducator
- Miss Lexi DeLong, Paraeducator
- Miss Lexi Warren, Library Media Clerical
- Miss Jamie Abrahamson, Food Service



## MEET AND GREET DAY

### What is Meet and Greet Day?

- Meet and Greet Day (Orientation Day) allows students and guardians the opportunity to meet the staff, get acclimated with the building, and put away necessary supplies.

### When is it?

- Meet and Greet Day is scheduled for Tuesday, August 31st from 8:00A.M.-4:00P.M. Families will have a scheduled time slot based on the first initial of your last name.
- There is no bus transportation provided on this day.

### What should I bring?

- Students are encouraged to bring their school supplies to Meet and Greet Day. Students in Grade 4 will be asked to purchase a recorder for \$6 if they do not already have one. Guardians are also able to turn in any additional paperwork at this time to our office.

### Who can come?

- Wakanda students must be accompanied by parents/guardians to Meet and Greet Day. Additional siblings are also welcome to attend and must be supervised by an adult.

### Any other important information:

- Please complete the student forms in Skyward prior to Meet and Greet Day on August, 31st.

## PROJECT SAM (SHARE A MEAL)

Project SAM (Share A Meal) weekend meal program is open all students in the Menomonie School District. SAM provides food for students over the weekend when school meals are not available. Each bag contains enough food for two breakfasts and two lunches and will be available every Friday.

Each year we offer families the opportunity to sign up for Project SAM. There is no cost for families to choose to enroll in SAM. Our local food shelf works with our area schools to provide extra groceries to help families make ends meet. There is no obligation for families other than to sign a permission form which allows us to give your child a bag of groceries each Friday.



## MEALS

Great news! USDA has authorized **Free Breakfast and Lunch** for **All Students** this year regardless of income.

Although the meals are free this year, it is important that you still fill out the application for free and reduced meals if you think you might qualify. This information is used to determine other benefits you might be eligible for.

By now your family should have received paperwork from the school district regarding the application process for free or reduced lunch for the 2021-2022 school year. If you are not sure if you would qualify or if at any time your situation changes, PLEASE fill out the forms. We can help you through any questions you might have regarding this process.

Students/families may choose to bring a lunch from home, but please refrain from sending anything with *peanut/nut products* as we are a *Nut Aware School*. Many of our students have life-threatening allergies to nuts and can't be exposed or around them.

This year we are also excited to offer our NEW **Lunch Box Buddy** program. Students may receive a free fruit, vegetable, and milk to go with their child's lunch from home this year.

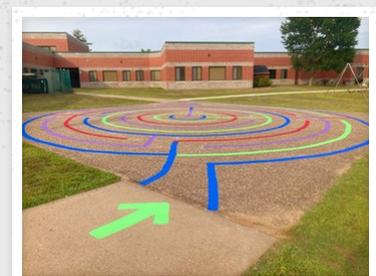


## WAKANDA PTO

Our PTO is a parent-run organization that supports our school, raising money for additional field trips, adding technology to the classroom, enhancing our playground spaces, and supporting our staff. Parents are encouraged to provide support in the manner that suits their family best (time, donations, and/or service). We would love to have you join our Wakanda PTO. Please check out the Wakanda PTO Facebook page or reach out by email to

[Wakanda.elementary.pto@gmail.com](mailto:Wakanda.elementary.pto@gmail.com)

One of our most recent events, the Wakanda Walk-a-thon, was a tremendous success! We look forward to further enhancing our school playground with our fundraising efforts and one of our most recent additions has been a new maze painted on our kindergarten playground! Be sure to check it out!



# ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

## EARLY STUDENT ARRIVAL

Outdoor supervision will be available on the playground beginning at 8:00A.M., but the supervision will not include managing cohorts or monitoring other COVID-19 mitigation strategies that may be emphasized in the classrooms. The school building will not be open for students until 8:30A.M. (except bus riders arriving on an early route during the extreme cold weather). We are asking you to consider delaying your car drop-off time and walking arrival time to school until 8:30A.M. in an effort to provide Wakanda educators with ample time to plan, collaborate, and properly prepare for the day.

## DROP-OFF OR PICK-UP

As part of our district-wide elementary safety and security protocol system, we will be limiting building entry to only students at the beginning and ending of our school day. All other adult visitors must check into the office for entry throughout the school day.

Please plan on utilizing our carpool system or using the sidewalk to accompany your child to the front door to prepare to say good-bye. We will be requesting parents/guardians to wait outdoors at the end of the school day to pick-up your child as the safety and security of our students is a priority.

## CARPOOL STUDENT PICK-UP

We will be providing you with a Family Card to display in your front window helping us to quickly identify those students who you are picking up. Family Cards will ask you to identify your family name, the names of your elementary-aged students and corresponding grade levels. Your Family Card is included in your materials today as well as a detailed map explaining our carpool procedure.

Students will be in the carpool lines as we are planning to cohort the students by grade level and socially distance them as much as possible. Please be patient in your vehicle and allow for extra time at the end of your afternoon as we navigate the procedures with your students.

## BUSSING

Bussing is available for children starting September 1st. Please contact Menomonie Transportation if you need further information at 715-235-4995.

# BIRTHDAY TREATS AND FIELD TRIPS

**BIRTHDAY TREATS-** Birthday treats may be brought to school this year. However, all treats must be store bought/commercially made and labeled with ingredients to ensure the safety of all students who may have food allergies.

**FIELD TRIPS-** Field trips off of school grounds will be allowed provided that a mitigation plan has been submitted by the classroom teacher and approved by the building principal. Masks are required on buses through September 13.

## IMPORTANT DATES

8/31 - Meet and Greet Day

9/1 - First Full Day of School

9/6 - NO SCHOOL - Labor Day

9/15 - Picture Day

10/7 & 10/12 - Parent/Teacher Conferences

10/14 - NO SCHOOL - Professional Development Day

10/15 - NO SCHOOL

11/2 - Picture Retake Day



## CONTACT INFORMATION

 @SDMA\_Wakanda

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 715-232-3898

 [wk.sdmaonline.com](http://wk.sdmaonline.com)