

# STAR SCOOP

BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION AUGUST 2022



## MESSAGE FROM MRS. BRANCH

Welcome back to school, Wakanda Stars! I am honored to work with the students, families, and staff of Wakanda Elementary School. I would like to extend a special welcome to all of our students and families who are new to Wakanda. We are thrilled as we look upon another year of learning at Wakanda Elementary School!

As the school-year approaches, I wanted to provide you with some resources that may assist you in preparing for the year. I encourage you to review the school hours, food service programs, and information regarding meet and greet day.

We are excited to begin the 2022-2023 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)

On behalf of Wakanda Elementary School, welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! We look forward to another school year full of learning and fun!

~Mrs. Shannon Branch, Principal



## 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 Wednesday, 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 \$7 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 Family Access prior to Meet and Greet Day on August, 31st. You can complete the forms by going to our school website: <http://wk.sdmaonline.com/> under the Parent Resources-Family Access link. To obtain a username/password or if you have questions about logging into your family Skyward account, call 715-232-1642 Ext-11142 for assistance.



## SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM BREAKFAST/LUNCH

Our school district offers a free nutritious breakfast to all students and reasonably priced nutritious lunch to all students. The waivers that have been in place for two years have not been extended by the USDA for the 2022-2023 school year, thus if you don't qualify for free or reduced meals, you will need to pay for lunch this year. It is very important that you fill out the [free/reduced application](#) if you think you might qualify. The School Nutrition office also mails a free and reduced school meal application form every school year for families. The school district monthly menus can be found on the district website [Menus](#) **Please notice the school meal prices for the 2022-2023 school year:**

**Breakfast- FREE for all elementary students**

**School Lunch - \$2.85**

**Reduced - \$ .40**

**Milk only \$ .50**

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*.

## PROJECT SAM (SHARE A MEAL)

Project SAM (Share A Meal) weekend meal program is open to 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.

## BRIDGING BRIGHTER SMILES



RECEIVE DENTAL CARE RIGHT AT SCHOOL!

Oral Screening, Dental Cleaning, Fluoride Varnish, Sealants, Silver Diamine Fluoride, Referral Assistance

Services are provided during the day and visits are held throughout the school year.

Bridging Brighter Smiles, Inc. accepts Forward Health/BadgerCare Insurance Only.

Any Questions Please Call Bridging Brighter Smiles at (262) 896- 9891 or visit

<https://bridgingbrightersmiles.org/>

ENROLL NOW! <https://enrollment.bbsmiles.org/>

## REMINDERS

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES**-School Supply lists are located at local stores as well as on our website. Please bring your child's supplies on Meet and Greet Day.

**BIRTHDAY TREATS**- Birthday treats may be brought to school. 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 taking place as planned by classroom teachers. Parent volunteers may be welcomed however proper background checks must be filled out in the office prior to attending any school field trip.

**CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES**-SDMA elementary schools strongly discourage students from bringing any cell phones or electronic devices to school. SDMA elementary schools do not assume responsibility for articles that are lost, stolen, or damaged.

## ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

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 will be included in your beginning of the school year materials on Meet and Greet Day as well as a detailed map explaining our carpool procedure.

Please be patient in your vehicle and allow for extra time at the end of your afternoon as we navigate dismissal 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.

## STAR SCOOP MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS

Our monthly newsletters contain important information regarding classroom and school-related events. We will be transitioning to an online format and will be sending our newsletters each month via Skylert messaging. We will no longer be sending out printed paper copies of our newsletter. If you would like to continue to receive a paper version of the newsletter, please contact the Wakanda Office at 715-232-3898 or email [krista\\_kelley@msd.k12.wi.us](mailto:krista_kelley@msd.k12.wi.us)

Please be sure to sign up for Skylerts so you don't miss important messages from Wakanda Elementary or the School District of the Menomonie Area.

To sign up to begin to receive skylerts, Go to <http://wk.sdmaonline.com/> under the Parent Resources-Family Access link. On the Left, you will find Skylert. You will want to ensure **General** is clicked next to your preferred email or phone number and it is recommended that you select Non-school hours emergency as well. If you do not have a Family Access Account, you will want to contact the ASC 715-232-1642 Ext-11142 for assistance.

Our monthly newsletters will also be posted on our Wakanda School website at <https://wk.sdmaonline.com/>

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attendance is an essential part of a student's success. Please make every effort to help your child get to school on time. If your child is not present, please call or email us. Students are reminded that they have a maximum of 10 school days that can be missed during the school

year for personal illness or family activities. If a student needs to attend an appointment during school hours, a note from that business office needs to be turned into the Wakanda office upon returning to school. If your child will be absent or is leaving school during the school day, please call the school office at 715-232-3898.

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:

- Jennifer Pulk, Social Worker
- Stacy Heath, Speech Language Pathologist
- Josie Wilterdink, Special Education Teacher
- Colleen Harmer, Library Media Clerical
- Devany Dressen, Supervisory Aide
- Danielle Stanley, Educational Support Specialist
- Hannah Mommsen, Paraeducator
- Ally Ziehme, Paraeducator
- Emma McGovern, Reading Corp
- Olivia Harris, Reading Corp

-Lauren Berg is transferring roles to our Title I Paraeducator.

-Dawn Shackleton is transferring roles to our Health Assistant.

-We temporarily say good-bye to Mrs. LaBuda as she has taken a position as the math interventionist at Oaklawn as our class sizes in third grade have provided us with the opportunity to have only two sections for the upcoming school year. Mrs. Pasch and Mrs. Mayer will be our third grade instructors for this school year.

-Congratulations to Miss Liz Klein, Special Education Teacher on her wedding this summer. She will be known as Mrs. Klatt by staff and students 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 additions has been the Gaga Pit! The Wakanda PTO installed our new Gaga Pit this summer and we can't wait for the students to put it to use this school year! Be sure to check it out! We look forward to further enhancing our school playground and embarking on school field trips with our PTO fundraising efforts!



- 8/31 - Meet and Greet Day
- 9/1 - First Full Day of School
- 9/5 - NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
- 9/7 - PTO Meeting 5:30pm - Wakanda Library
- 9/15 - Picture Day
- 10/5 - PTO Meeting 5:30pm - Wakanda Library
- 10/6 & 10/11 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 10/13 - NO SCHOOL - Professional Development Day
- 10/14 - NO SCHOOL
- 10/18 - Picture Retake Day



## CONTACT INFORMATION

 @SDMA\_Wakanda

 801 Pine Avenue E Menomoni...  715-232-3898

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