



Norwalk Community School District Newsletter

Editor – Cheri
Atherton

Winter 2016

Norwalk Community School Board Members;

Rick Kaul – Board President
Maribeth Wright – Vice President
Justin Fletcher – Board Member
David Albrecht – Board Member
Dana Schuemann – Board Member

Mission Statement

Our primary mission is to provide maximum learning opportunities in a safe environment for all children of the district, so each individual may make a positive contribution to their community and remain a life-long learner.



January 1—2 **No School**
January 4—Classes Resume
January 6--- 1:30/2:00 Dismissal
January 18—**No School**
January 20—1:30/2:00 Dismissal
January 27— 1:30/2:00 Dismissal



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Check out our new
website:
www.norwalk.k12.ia.us



Feb 3—1:30/2:00 Dismissal
Feb 10—1:30/2:00 Dismissal
Feb 15—18 Conferences
Feb 19 — **No School**
Feb 24—1:30/2:00 Dismissal



March 2—1:30/2:00 Dismissal
March 9—1:30/2:00 Dismissal
March 14—18 Spring Break
(No School)
March 23—1:30/2:00 Dismissal
March 30---1:30/2:00 Dismissal

Important Phone Numbers

Buildings & Grounds	981-0917
District Office	981-0676
High School	981-4201
HS Activities Office	981-4204
Eastview 8/9	981-9655
Middle School	981-0435
Lakewood Elementary	981-1850
Oviatt Elementary	981-1005
Nutrition	981-9876
Transportation	981-0016

JANUARY



News from the Desk of Superintendent, Dr. Denny Wulf.....

Superintendent's Update

What a first semester! Much is occurring locally, statewide and nationally in education. Nationally, the congress is debating the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This legislation has a large impact on education. At this point, there will be many changes in the mandates present in No Child Left Behind (NCLB). It sounds as if Title 1 reading assistance for students will be retained. The Common Core will move from national control to state control. But, more will become apparent as the legislation receives final approval.

At the state level two primary changes are coming. The first is Smarter Balanced testing which will replace Iowa Testing in many situations. More information about Smarter Balanced testing can be found at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/> Smarter Balanced will have more opportunities for students to demonstrate problem solving skills than our present testing. As a test run, Norwalk was chosen to take an international test by the Department of Education. Norwalk represented those schools that continually rank highly in the previous forms of testing. We represented the top 10% of Iowa's most "proficient schools". However, we were not in the top 10% internationally. To create workers for the future, our kids will need more problem solving skills. There is an old bromide that "what gets measured, gets done". Moving away from minimum competency testing to the challenge of international-style testing will definitely raise the bar. Our inclusion in the pilot study this year helps us plan.

A second change at the state level is the Iowa Report Card. As I write, the information is embargoed. Next week the information will become available to all Iowans. But, if you are interested in becoming familiar with the previous model, several years of data can be found at <https://www.educateiowa.gov/document-type/state-report-card> Phase 1 of the new report card was rolled out last year. You may recall the large scatter plot that displayed minimum competency and college and work readiness measures for every district and school in Iowa. Phase 2 will now include growth data this year, which Norwalk lobbied for. It will also include staff retention data and other measures. Phase 3 roll out in the future. It will contain extensive surveys of constituents and staff about teaching and learning. These types of surveys have been used in Norwalk for over a decade. This requirement fits well into our present data collection process.

Locally, it has been one of the finest first semester performances by Norwalk students in our history. Achievement scores still rank us in the top percentages in Iowa and nationally. The results from the new State Report Card should be solid. Activities provided us with the finest overall fall programing in my memory. And my memory is long. Conference champions, state competition, and unbeaten streaks dominated the central Iowa news. Congratulations to Director Lammers and his staff.

There is also the excitement of growth. The district will need to expand facilities to accommodate this growth. There is no doubt, we are filling up. New spaces, remodeled spaces, and expanded spaces will be necessary. Professional planners and architects are closely examining our growth projections and facilities to present options. Expect our traditional opportunity for public input on these options. In the past, your input resulted in renovations, an auditorium, class size recommendations, new parking, a new stadium, an all-weather track, updated classroom designs, a secondary campus where sharing is common and dozens more. You have much to be proud of.....and much to look forward to.

As many of you are aware, this will be my final year in Norwalk. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to work for you. You provided me with a great career. The process of choosing the next superintendent is well underway. You will find that the Norwalk superintendency has evolved into a coveted job. There will be outstanding candidates. I wish the selection committees luck on what I am sure will be a choice between great people. A good problem to have!



News From the Desks of the Directors of Teaching and Learning – Dawn Schiro (Elementary), Amy Gage (Secondary)

Norwalk’s Research-Based Approach to School Improvement

It is the belief of Norwalk Community School District that *our fundamental purpose is to create a rigorous, collaborative and inclusive learning environment for all students so each individual is empowered to pursue a lifetime of personal success in college, career and citizenship.* Further, we believe that we can be highly effective in promoting student learning if we utilize a research-based framework to guide our school improvement efforts. One such research-based approach is the Marzano High Reliability Schools (2014) framework. Norwalk Schools has been engaged in the study of Dr. Marzano’s work for many years, and we continue to use research to monitor our own effectiveness as a learning organization. The High Reliability Schools (2014) framework, based on forty years of educational research, defines five progressive levels of performance that a school must master to become a high reliability school—where all students learn the content and skills they need for success in college, careers, and beyond. High reliability schools encompass the following five levels of operation for school improvement efforts:

1. Safe and Collaborative Culture
2. Effective Teaching in Every Classroom
3. Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum
4. Standards-Referenced Reporting
5. Competency-Based Education

Our collective study of this framework is not a new initiative for Norwalk. For many years, Norwalk has been utilizing research to guide to our school improvement work. We have developed a safe and collaborative culture by utilizing the Professional Learning Community (PLC) process with teacher teams and by developing a Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system for our students. We have implemented the state of Iowa’s Teacher Leadership and Compensation System to ensure that all teachers have the job-embedded professional development needed to provide the highest quality classroom instruction to every student. We have engaged teachers in a multi-year curriculum review process to implement the Iowa Core curriculum in every classroom as well as develop a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to ensure that every student learns at high levels. In the coming year, we will begin to study the implications of the Iowa Core on our reporting systems, in addition to collaborating with the Department of Education to develop our understanding of their Competency-Based Education initiative.

Because of Norwalk’s commitment to using research, such as Marzano’s High Reliability Framework, to drive our school improvement efforts, we are among the highest performing schools districts in the state of Iowa as measured by the Department of Education’s Attendance Center Rankings. However, as Jim Collins’ writes, “good is the enemy of great”. Norwalk will continue to strive for excellence in the years to come and to achieve our mission of empowering students *to pursue a lifetime of personal success in college, career and citizenship.*

Dawn Schiro, Elementary Director of Teaching and Learning

Amy Gage, Secondary Director of Teaching and Learning

News from our Transportation Department

John Stoner, Director



Iowa's statute for School Bus Stop Arm Violations has changed dramatically. Effective July 1, 2012, Kady's Law became effective. The law increases previous fines, offers possible suspension of license, and even jail time.

Bus drivers activate their yellow flashing lights a minimum of 150 feet from a bus stop to notify the public they are preparing to stop. Cars approaching a bus from in front and behind must be preparing to stop. Upon reaching their stop the driver opens the door and the yellow lights cancel and the red lights start flashing and a flashing stop sign opens. It is against the law to pass a school bus with a stop sign open and red lights flashing.

Each time your school bus driver uses his or her bus they do a pre-use inspection of their vehicle. They check many things including their various lights. If a deficiency is found during their inspection the bus is not used until it is repaired.

Winter is here. Please help the Transportation Department identify clothing and personal items left on buses by including your students name inside using a permanent marker.

Please take time to review the **Transportation** section under **Parents** on our website at www.norwalk.k12.ia.us. Our "Hard Surface Only Plan" includes bus numbers, times, and stop locations on days where we decide that for students safety we will keep buses on main roads only. If we start the day on "Hard Surface Only" we will complete the afternoon on that same plan.





EAT BREAKFAST AT SCHOOL

Mornings can be really crazy...the alarm doesn't go off...the kids don't want to get up...there's no time to eat breakfast before the bus comes...or they're just not ready to eat. Or maybe your teenager grabs a can of soda and a candy bar on the way to school. If this sounds like your house, we have good news for you.

Breakfast is served each morning at all schools before the first bell. For only \$1.50 your child can purchase a full breakfast that includes the entrée, fresh fruit, 100% juice and milk. With the rising cost of groceries, this is truly a great value. If your child qualifies for free or reduced price lunches, your child also qualifies for a free or reduced price breakfast meal each day. Make giving your child a healthy breakfast every day one of your New Year's resolutions and set them up for success in the classroom.

COMMITMENT TO OUR CUSTOMERS & FOOD SAFETY

Contrary to many stereotypes about school lunches, school meals in the cafeteria are one of the safest and healthiest places for your child to dine. Norwalk Nutrition Department takes pride that currently 65% of our work-force is certified through the Serv-Safe Food Protection Program. The Nutrition Department focus is to provide exceptional customer service while ensuring food safety and sanitation. Your child's safety is a top priority.

HOW CAN YOU HELP

If you have not yet registered for a Parent Online account which allows you to monitor purchases and register for low balance email alerts, you may do so at www.parentonline.net. If your child attends Norwalk Middle School please select Norwalk High School when registering. If you need help please contact the Nutrition Department at 981-9876. Payments for lunch accounts can be made by check, cash or online through RevTrak at <https://norwalk.revtrak.net>.

Applications for meal assistance may be completed at any time throughout the school year. If you applied and your financial situation has since changed, or if you have not yet applied, you may apply online at www.schoolmealapp.com. Paper applications are also available. Please contact the Nutrition Department for assistance at 981-9876.

If you would like to donate funds to help local Norwalk Students who need financial assistance for school meals, you may donate to the Norwalk Ministerial Association. The Ministerial Association is a gracious avenue to help provide assistance for lunch money to families in need. For information on where you can make a donation, please contact Trey Parrott via telephone at 981-4391 or via email at pastor@norwalkbaptist.org.

Information for Parents

If your family lives in any of the following situations:

- In a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground
- On the street
- In an abandoned building, trailer, or other inadequate accommodations, or
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford housing

Then, your preschool-aged and school-aged children have certain rights or protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

Your children have the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there. They must be given access to the same public education, including preschool education, provided to other children.
- Continue in the school they attended before you became homeless or the school they last attended, if that is your choice and is feasible. If a school sends your child to a school other than the one you request, the school must provide you with a written explanation and offer you the right to appeal the decision.
- Receive transportation to the school they attended before your family became homeless or the school they last attended, if you or a guardian request such transportation.
- Attend a school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless. Children cannot be separated from the regular school program because they are homeless.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address. Schools cannot require proof of residency that might prevent or delay school enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or any other documents required for enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes in the school of your choice even while the school and you seek to resolve a dispute over enrolling your children.
- Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other children served in these programs.
- Receive transportation to school and to school programs.

When you move, you should do the following:

- Contact the school district's local liaison for homeless education (see phone number below) for help in enrolling your child in a new school or arranging for your child to continue in his or her former school. (Or, someone at a shelter, social services office, or the school can direct you to the person you need to contact.)
- Contact the school and provide any information you think will assist the teachers in helping your child adjust to new circumstances.
- Ask the local liaison for homeless education, the shelter provider, or a social worker for assistance with clothing and supplies, if needed.

Local Contact:

Eric Neessen

Norwalk School District

515- 981-0676 eneessen@norwalk.k12.ia.us

State Contact: **Sandy Johnson**

Iowa Dept. of Education

1400 E. Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50319

515-281-3965 sandra.johnson@iowa.gov

National Center for Homeless Education
at the toll-free HelpLine number:

1-800-308-2145



Norwalk Schools Pest Management Spraying Notification

The Norwalk Schools implements an integrated pest management program for all school owned green space. This program includes aerating, dethatching, mowing, trimming, mulching and spraying for pests. Spraying for pests includes fertilization, pre-emergent crabgrass control, post & pre-emergent weed control, and weed control along all fence lines and buildings. Any resident that has property that is adjacent to school property and wishes to be notified 24 hours in advance of any pest control should contact Sue Sarnecki ssarnecki@norwalk.k12.ia.us or Richard Sleeth rsleeth@norwalk.k12.ia.us. All individuals or groups that might use school grounds for any function should watch for “keep off chemically treated” signs. These signs are placed on treated green space for 24 hours after treatment. If you see these signs you should stay off that particular green space until the signs are removed. We take this task seriously and have a commitment to keep our environment safe. The district has two licensed pest treatment employees. Pest treatment is always our last line of defense and we use it sparingly in our integrated pest management program.





Norwalk Activities Office

The fall athletic & activity is now well behind us and a number of our programs had a success fall season. The highlight of the fall season was the state runner-up finish by the football team and the first ever Little Hawkeye Conference championship achieved by the Norwalk Volleyball program. The Norwalk High School Marching Band had one of its most successful campaigns as they were awarded with a Division One Rating at the State Marching Band contest and finished in the upper division of several other contests, competing at the 4A level. And the debate team for the first time ever won the CIDL. Congratulations to Kennedy Scallon on her state cross country meet participation. And now that we are in the midst of our winter season we hope that the same level of success will be achieved by our boys and girls basketball teams, bowling team, wrestling team, drill team, the jazz band, show choir, large group speech, individual speech, and the rest of our activity programs.

As we focus in on our winter schedule, now would be an appropriate time to bring attention to and discuss what the expectations are of students of all ages who attend our many activities, especially basketball games and wrestling meets.

First and foremost we encourage any and all student's K-12 to come and support our high school teams but in so doing the expectations are that they are there to watch the game and support the teams. Using the events to run freely through the hallways, or to mingle and socialize outside of the event area for the majority of the contest does not meet the expectations that we have of our students who attend Norwalk High School events. A designated area for the 6-7 student body is located in the northwest corner of the balcony seating; our 8th & 9th grade student body is expected to sit in their designated area which is in the balcony area behind the designated high school student body in lower bleacher level.

One other area of concern is the number of students younger than our middle school students who come to games with or without parents but who seemingly use the high school facility as their own personal playground. Any student who attends a game or an event and is younger than middle school age should be accompanied by an adult and should be seated with their parents while the event is in progress. And if not accompanied by an adult should be informed of what type of behavior is expected of them while at that event. Any student whose behavior is deemed unacceptable and does not meet expectations will be asked to seat themselves with their parents or call their parents to come and get them and depending on the severity of the behavior may be banned from attending future contests.

We would like to simply ask for parental cooperation and support in explaining what is appropriate behavior and expectations when their child attends events at Norwalk High School. We truly appreciate your cooperation.

Appropriate behavior and sportsmanship is not only an expectation of our students and athletes but it is also a greater expectation of our fans who attend games and meets. All fans are ambassadors of our teams, school, and community and the type of behavior that we display creates either a positive or negative image of who we are. The Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls Athletic Union have made sportsmanship a #1 priority of all schools throughout the state of Iowa and we ask that Norwalk Fans be a representative and positive image for other schools and communities to emulate.

Until Next Time
"Be A Warrior"

Oviatt Elementary

Sheila Taylor, Principal

Rodney Martinez, Dean

Take time to look through this information involving the 2nd semester activity. Mark dates on your calendar to help guide you for the rest of the school year. Hope you have a wonderful holiday break. Happy New Year!

AIMSweb Assessment

AIMSweb is an assessment system which Norwalk utilizes to assess students three times a year: September, January & April.

The reading and math benchmarks are simple and accurate. In the early grades (k-1), we will measure early literacy and numeracy skills, including letter-naming fluency and number identification. In the later grades (2-8), we measure the high-leverage skills of reading fluency and comprehension as well as math concepts, applications, and computation. Benchmarks are brief, taking anywhere from 1 minute to 8 minutes each. We like to think of it as taking your child's reading and math temperature. The winter benchmark will start January 19th through February 5th.

Benchmark assessments help us meet the individualized needs of your child in reading and math as they progress through our system. Teachers will utilize benchmarks to help them plan their reading and math instruction as well as design supports for students who are above or below average in their progress toward grade level targets. Students are provided different levels of support in order to ensure all students meet the expectations of the Iowa Core standards. As a district, it helps us to measure the overall health of our curriculum to ensure that it produces high levels of learning and growth for every child in Norwalk.

Your child's AIMSweb scores are indicated on the report card, and you will be receiving a graph to show your child's current strengths and weaknesses as a learner, and next steps to help them grow in their learning.

With the state's literacy legislation, our goal is to have every student reading at grade level by the third grade. For more resources about reading, please visit the Iowa Reading Research Center's website at www.iowareadingresearch.org under the "Parents" tab.

Parent Portal and Website Communications

Our main form of communication is through parent portal and emails. Electronic notes save a lot of time, effort & money.

If you haven't signed up for Parent Portal, go to the district's website at <http://www.norwalkschools.org/>, click on *Parents* under the Norwalk heading then choose the *Request a parent portal account* and submit the information requested. If you need to update your email address with the school, call Diana Spieker, Registrar, 981-0676.

If you have questions, contact Tim Geyer, Technology Director, tgeyer@norwalk.k12.ia.us, Rodney Martinez, rmartinez@norwalk.k12.ia.us, or Sheila Taylor, staylor@norwalk.k12.ia.us.

When you sign up for Parent Portal, the following information can be accessed using the District's website and your personal password:

Notifications from the District and/or Building

- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- PTO meetings
- Calendar Updates

Transportation Information

- Pick-up location
- Drop-off destination
- Alternate routes

Attendance & Health Records

- Days absent
- Tardies
- Immunizations

Fee Balances

- Nutrition Department
- Transportation (if applicable)
- Supplies

Emergency School Closings (Board Policy 504.7)

On emergency dismissal days, radio stations WHO-1040, KRNT-1350, Q102 FM, and KJJY-92.5 FM will be notified, as well as television stations 5, 8, and 13. You may also visit our web site at <http://www.norwalkschools.org/> for up-to-date school closing information. It is important that phone lines are kept open for communication from the district office. Each family is required to have an emergency plan on file in the classroom designating where the student should go in case of an emergency closing that occurs after the students arrive at school. This could be for weather, loss of utilities, disaster, etc.

School Called Off – All Day

The announcement called into the media will be, “**Norwalk, No School.**” Cancellation of activities scheduled for that evening will be made by the Activities Director by 1:00 p.m.

Late Start

If it is determined that school will start late, it will be a two-hour delay. The announcement called into the media will be “**Norwalk-two- hour delay. No morning Preschool. No breakfast.**” For a late start doors will open at 9:30 with the tardy bell ringing at 10:05.

Early Dismissal

Typically, if we have to dismiss early due to an emergency school closing, we dismiss at 1:00 p.m. The media announcement will be, “**Norwalk dismissing at 1:00 p.m. No afternoon preschool.**” Oviatt will dismiss bus students at 1:00 p.m. or when the busses arrive. The rest of the elementary population will wait in their classrooms and get out immediately following departure of busses. If we have to dismiss earlier than 1:00 p.m. due to severe weather, treat the time sequence the same. (Bus students dismissed when the busses arrive at the elementary and the rest of the students dismissed at the time announced.) All evening activities will be cancelled.

Iowa School Alert System

Our school district is part of the Iowa School Alert System. Check the District’s homepage for more information on this program. If you are already a member of the Iowa School Alert System, search for Norwalk and sign up to receive notifications about school closings. This system emails you in the event that a weather related closing or delay takes place. You can also fill in your cell phone number and have the email sent to your cell phone for notification.

Weather & Recess Preparedness

Oviatt Elementary follows the guidelines recommended by the Child Care Weather Watch and the Iowa Department of Public Health. Their website is www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci/common/pdf/weatherwatch.pdf. Make sure your child is dressed adequately to spend 20-30 minutes outside. Students will be expected to go outside regardless of their dress. Boots, scarves, mittens, hats, warm coats, etc., should be worn as appropriate to the weather. If your child does not bring boots for damp or snowy conditions, he or she is required to stay on the blacktop. If your child must miss recess for more than two (2) consecutive days, a doctor's note will be required.

If you cannot provide these winter clothing items for your child(ren), please contact the principal, dean, or counselor, Sonya Chittenden, for confidential assistance. Thank you in advance for working with us to make sure your child is dressed for Iowa weather.

When Children Get Sick

If a child has a fever or other illness, the school nurse or the school secretary will call parents to come and pick up their child. However, the nurse is not permitted to diagnose, so see your physician in regard to illness and injury occurring away from school. A child must remain out of school 24 hours after a fever of 100 degrees or higher has broken, or if applicable, vomiting or diarrhea has stopped. Parents are encouraged to plan ahead for such occasions.

Changes with PT Conferences

This year we have only one day of conferences in February with the other two days the first week of May. The majority of parents will set up conferences in May. We wanted to allow a day for conferences mid-year to communicate with parents. Invitations will be sent out from teachers of those parents they would like to meet with on Monday, February 15th. Since we have only one night of conferences in February, students WILL have school on Thursday, Feb. 18, but WILL NOT have school on Friday, Feb. 19th. Note these dates since it is a change in how we have done conferences before.

2016-17 Kindergarten Registration

We are going paperless for registration. You will be able to get online to register your child starting mid-February. Please check the school district's website at <http://www.norwalkschools.org/>. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact Diana Spieker, District Registrar, at 981-0676.

We thank you in advance for your participation in this registration process. Your promptness in completion of registration forms allows us to be proactive in staffing appropriately for the kindergarten class of 2016-17. If you want your child to participate in kindergarten orientation at the end of May, we need to have your child's registration completed by the first week of May (this gives us time to get information in the system prior to orientation).

Kindergarten Round Up

Round Up will be held on **Monday, April 4**, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Oviatt Elementary. The following activities will take place during this time span:

- 6:00-6:40 p.m. Presentation for parents in Oviatt gym (incoming Kindergarten students may attend)
- 6:40-7:30 p.m. Self-guided tour of current kindergarten classrooms
Opportunity to meet with transportation; nurse; nutrition; registrar; technology; PTO

Tour by Incoming Kindergarten Students

We will offer scheduled tours in May for all incoming kindergarten students. Please check the next District newsletter for specific dates for these tours. We work with all local daycare providers and community preschools in arranging the tours. If your child has daycare services outside the Norwalk community, please know you are welcome, too! More information on this tour will be shared on the district's website in April.

Kindergarten Orientation

Kindergarten Orientation dates are not firmly set; however, if we have no snow make-up days, we will hold Orientation on May 31 & June 1. We typically have orientation the final two days of school and need to get past winter weather before we are sure of those final two days. Parents who register prior to May 4 are notified of all pertinent dates. This information will also be posted on the district's website in April.

Important Oviatt Dates – Winter

January 4	Students' first day back from Winter break
January 6	early dismissal
January 13	early dismissal
January 18	NO SCHOOL – Teacher Work Day
Jan. 18- Feb. 5	AIMSweb winter benchmark
January 20	early dismissal
January 25	PTO free family movie night @ LW (5:30 p.m.)
January 27	early dismissal
February 1	PTO free family BINGO @ Oviatt (5:30 p.m.)
February 3	early dismissal
February 10	early dismissal
February 15	Oviatt PT conferences 4:30-7:30 p.m. (invitation only)
February 17	early dismissal
February 18	Regular School Day
February 19	NO SCHOOL – teacher work day
February 24	early dismissal
February 25	Norwalk Community Preschool Open House
Feb. 29- March 4	Iowa Assessments (2 nd grade) Preschool Registration
March 2	early dismissal
March 4	Preschool family night 5:30-7:00 p.m.
March 8	1st grade music concert 6:30 at Auditorium (NPAC)
March 9	early dismissal
March 14-18	NO SCHOOL – Spring Break
March 23	early dismissal
March 30	early dismissal
April 4	Kindergarten round-up 6:00 p.m. in Oviatt gym
April 6	early dismissal
April 7	Lifetouch Spring Pictures
April 13	early dismissal
April 20	early dismissal
April 26	2 nd grade music concert 6:30 at Auditorium (NPAC)
April 27	early dismissal
May 4	early dismissal Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30
May 5	NO SCHOOL – Parent Teacher Conferences 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
May 6	NO SCHOOL- teacher inservice day

May 11	early dismissal
May 18	early dismissal
May 19	Kindergarten music concert 6:30 at Auditorium (NPAC)
May 24	Last day of preschool (tentative – depending on snow days)
May 25	early dismissal
May 27	Last day of kindergarten (tentative- depending on snow days)
May 30	NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day
May 31 & June 1	Kindergarten orientation (tentative- depending on snow days)
June 2	Last day of 1 st & 2 nd (tentative- depending on snow days)

2016-2017 Registration for Oviatt Elementary Preschool Program

Oviatt's preschool program is available for children who will be three or four years old on or before September 15, 2016

If you are interested in registering your child, check the Norwalk website at <http://www.norwalkschools.org/> by clicking the Oviatt link to locate registration paperwork. At this link you will also find the 2016-2017 Oviatt Preschool Handbook. Please review the contents of this handbook to learn about the goals of our program, our mission, research-based curriculum and assessment program, catch a glimpse of a child's day, and learn how families can be involved.

Please read carefully for the registration process.

Registration takes place during the week of February 29 and concludes on Friday, March 4th, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. Please use Entry #1 for registration purposes. The doors are open during the week from 7:30-4:00. We offer two morning sessions for three and four year-olds, and two afternoon sessions solely for four year-olds. Enrollment is limited to approximately six general education three year-olds and 28 four year-olds. You can enroll one of two ways:

1. Access registration forms from the Oviatt Preschool Program website; or,
2. Request a packet of registration materials by calling Arlene Kluesner, Principal's Secretary, at 981-1005 or email her at akluesner@norwalk.k12.ia.us.

All completed registration packets, along with a \$60 registration fee, must be received by Mrs. Kluesner during the Week of February 29th. Registration closes at 4:00 p.m. Friday, March 4th. Completed registration forms can be hand delivered or mailed to Oviatt Elementary at 713 School Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211.

Registration materials delivered prior to 7:30 a.m. February 29th or after the closing date/time on March 4th will be included in the lottery system explained below only if there is space available in the 2016-17 preschool programs. You are encouraged to follow the times/dates as detailed. Thank you.

Selection Process. A lottery system approach will be conducted the following Monday, March 7th, with parents informed early that week if their child is included on the roster of the 2016-17 Oviatt Preschool Program. At this point, if a child's name is not drawn, the parent has the option to place the child on a Wait List. All registration fee payments for those children who are not drawn are shredded or returned, based on parental preference.

If you have questions, please contact Sheila Taylor, Oviatt Preschool Principal, at 981-1005, ext. 1011, or email, staylor@norwalk.k12.ia.us.

Specific Information for the Three Year-Old Preschool Program

General education three year-olds attend Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 8:05-11:00. Tuition is \$215/month, and is due the first day of school each month. We have no transportation services.

There is a \$60 registration fee. Enrollment numbers in this program are capped to ensure a balance of three and four year-olds in our a.m. session.

Current general education three year-olds enrolled in the preschool program will automatically be enrolled in the four year-old program for the 2016-17 school year, for those families who opt to continue their participation in the Oviatt Preschool Program.

Specific Information for the Four Year-Old Preschool

Four year-olds attend Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:05-11:00 for the morning session and 11:50-2:45 in the afternoon. There is NO tuition fee since we participate in Iowa's Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program. We have no transportation services for general education students. There is a \$60 registration fee.

Oviatt Preschool Program Open House

We offer a Preschool Open House on **Thursday, February 25 in the evening** for families interested in learning more about the three and four-year old 2016-17, Oviatt Preschool Program. Families can tour the classrooms, meet the teachers, and have questions answered. An RSVP at 981-1005 is appreciated, but not required. We look forward to meeting you and your child(ren)!

Community Preschools' Registration Information

Community participation in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for four-year olds is very positive by providing a quality preschool program at little or no cost to parents. Registration plans for 2016-17 are now developed. If you want your child to attend preschool next year at one of the following three area preschools: 1) Serendipity Preschool, 2) Stepping Stones Preschool, or 3) Oviatt Preschool Program, continue to read below.

We are glad you have an interest in one or all of our preschool programs! To qualify for the financial benefits of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program, your child must be age four on or before September 15, 2016. Four year-olds have a minimum of 10 hours of tuition-free instruction.

Common Program Attributes

Our three preschools meet quality preschool standards that address the following attributes:

- 1) Research based curriculum focused on the child's development in the following critical areas of social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language skills
- 2) Ten hours minimum research-based instruction per week
- 3) Early childhood licensed teachers
- 4) Early childhood certified teacher assistants
- 5) Maximum enrollment number of students per session is 20 children with one teacher and one teacher assistant
- 6) Preschoolers who live outside the Norwalk community can attend preschool at one of these three sites; however, there is no open enrollment option for children who attend preschool in the Norwalk community but live outside the school district's boundaries when they reach kindergarten age.

Unique Program Attributes

The Norwalk community is fortunate to have a variety of preschool options available for families. Stepping Stones Preschool is a faith-based program that provides preschool and daycare. Serendipity Preschool offers a not-for-profit preschool program. The Oviatt Preschool Program, located within Oviatt Elementary School, serves students with special needs, as well as general education students.

Each preschool program has unique qualities that may assist you in determining where you prefer your child attend. You are encouraged to contact each preschool to determine which program best meets you and your child's individual needs.

Phone Numbers and/or Websites

Oviatt Preschool Program
Principal: Sheila Taylor
Phone: 981-1005

Serendipity Preschool
Director: Sara Cross
Phone: 981-0901

Stepping Stones Preschool
Directors: Christina Mellencamp
Phone: 313-7837

Please check with the directors of Serendipity Preschool and/or Stepping Stones Preschool for their program's specific registration information.

There are other preschools in our community in addition to the three participating in the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program partnership, providing more options for parents of preschool age children.

Background Information on the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program

The purpose of the *Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children* is to provide an opportunity for young children in the state of Iowa to enter school ready to learn by expanding statewide voluntary access to quality preschool curricula for four-year-old children.

The allocation of funds for the *Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children* is intended to improve access to quality early childhood education and provide a predictable, equitable, and sustainable funding method to increase the number of children participating in quality programs. The preschool programs are expected to serve four-year-old children with a range of abilities and disabilities representing the social, linguistic, and economic diversity of families within the community.

Please note:

We want to remind parents that the Voluntary 4-Year-Old Preschool program is a State funded program. As such, the program may be subject to change based on decisions made by the Iowa Legislators and Governor. Changes might include a tuition charge for students to participate in the program. The District will continue to operate under the current law until we are notified of any changes.



Lakewood Elementary
Jill Anderson – Principal

Staff Development:

One of my tasks as a building principal is that “learning” occurs for not only our students, but our teachers. Working collaboratively in recurring cycles of collective inquiry and action research should yield better results for the students they serve. I feel strongly that “two heads are better than one” and teachers should be expected to collaborate with their peers. It is a building expectation that they share strategies and tools at least once per week within their team. The teams learn from each other, much like the students do within the classroom.

I wanted to share what the Lake-wood staff did during the building portion of the early out from the beginning of the year. The teachers have been diligent at looking at the Iowa Core standards and taking time understanding how that would relate to their teaching. The teachers are in professional learning communities and during Early outs, they concentrate on priority standards, common assessments and data interpretation.

The teachers are able to design interventions directly related to the weakness of the student. Each teacher will be able to give a prescription of instruction, based on each student’s needs. The other part of the professional development time together will be spent on analyzing rigor and how instruction can change within the classroom in order to produce better thinkers. These early outs and Tuesday early bird sessions are invaluable to the work that we do to better educate your child.

Congratulations to Shelly Vroegh for Being Norwalk Teacher of the Year

It is my pleasure to announce that Shelly Vroegh has been named the Norwalk Teacher of the Year. She has been in the district for 19 years and has taught a variety of subjects. She first came to Norwalk as a special educator, then served as a 2nd/3rd Grade looping teacher for many years. She taught 3rd grade at Lakewood and is currently teaching 5th grade. She has had numerous leadership positions in the district throughout her teaching career. She is currently serving as an Instructional Coach as part of the Teacher Leadership Compensation Program. She is a great representation of what is great about Norwalk Schools.

Student Class Placement

According to Norwalk School Board Policy 501.4, all regular students enrolled in grades kindergarten through 5th grade are placed heterogeneously and by random assignment with gender/cultural equity. In grades one through five if a parent feels that a child immediately following another sibling shouldn’t have the same teacher, they may request a change. This request must be IN WRITING and made by the end of April.

Parents are not allowed to request a certain teacher for their child. If a parent has any concerns, you should contact the building principal.

Absences:

If your child will be absent or late to school, we ask that you call the office by 8:30 a.m. at 981-1850. If no contact has been made, the secretary will call and verify their attendance. If there is no answer, we will do a “well child” check at your home.

Lost and Found

Please mark your child’s belongings and clothes. We have many items in the Lost and Found at school and also at the bus barn with no names. We ask that you mark everything that your child may not have with them 100% of their day (lunch boxes, book bags, books, coats, hats, boots, snow pants, folders, toys, etc.). Please feel free to come into the school and retrieve your lost items.

Winter Weather

Winter weather is upon us. We want to remind all parents of our recess policies. The Norwalk School District will follow the guidelines recommended by the Child Care Weather Watch & the Iowa Department of Public Safety. www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci/common/pdf/weather-watch.pdf. Please make sure children are dressed adequately to spend 20-30 minutes outside. Please make sure your child has a hat, mittens or gloves and winter coat. If we have snow, students MUST have snow boots or they will need to stay on the blacktop and not be able to play in the snow. If your child needs to stay inside from recess for more than three days, you will need to send a doctor's note. Please be sure your school dressed for the cold weather. If you are not able to provide your child with winter items, please contact Mrs. Jensen anytime for confidential assistance.

Attention Lakewood

Parents

This year conferences will be May 3rd and 4th. The purpose of those conferences will be to review the Iowa Assessment results with parents. The online conferences were very successful and we will be doing that again for the spring.

Lakewood's Twitter Account: @Lakewood Elem

Lakewood's Facebook Account: www.facebook.com/norwalklw

IMPORTANT DATES

December 21-31- Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)

January 4- Classes resume

January 6- Early out

January 13- Early out

January 18 -Teacher Work Day NO SCHOOL

January 20- Early out

January 27- Early out

February 3 - Early out

February 10- Early out

February 17- Early out

February 24 -Early out

February 18 -Elementary Conferences 4 – 7 PM

February 19 -K-12 NO SCHOOL – Conference 10-8

February 21 - K -12 NO SCHOOL

March 4 -Early out

March 11 -Early out

March 16-20 Spring Break

NO SCHOOL

March 26- 5th grade vocal con-cert at Auditorium 7:00 p.m.

April 1 -Early out

April 6&7- PTO Spring Teacher/Student group pictures

April 8 – Early out

April 20- Lifetouch Spring picture day

April 21- 3rd grade vocal concert 7:00 p.m.

April 22 Early Out

April 29 Early

Middle School

Beth Ward - Principal

I am always amazed how quickly a school year flies by. Even though the ground is absent of a white covering, the calendar says it's December. The December Winter newsletter is an indication that our year is coming close to being half-way completed. I am very pleased with how hard the staff and students have been working on accomplishing the goals for the year. High expectations are placed on the staff and students daily. The response continues to be nothing less than expected.

Our building goal for the 2015-16 school year states that through a literate environment, each Norwalk Middle School student will meet or exceed the Career and College Ready NSS cut score in Reading. At least 90% of Norwalk Middle School students will meet or exceed proficiency on Iowa Assessments in all content areas. Norwalk Middle School will also decrease the achievement gap discrepancies for all sub groups. In order to reach this goal, classrooms focus on rigor of content, increased non-fiction reading, writing and more time for choice reading.

Our Wednesday professional development days are spent learning about the elements of a literate environment. This collaborative adult learning will have a direct impact on the growth of all students and in the reaching of our goal. Classroom assessments and Iowa Assessments will indicate if our goal has been reached.

If at anytime you have questions with the direction Norwalk Middle School is moving, please feel free to contact me. I would like to thank each of you for the continued support you give to your student, our staff and our school.

Norwalk Middle School will continue to work hard to empower each student to be engaged in the learning process.

TIME TO CELEBRATE!!

The Iowa School Report Card is a new system to show how each public school is performing on certain educational measures. Schools receive a score for each measure, and then the scores are combined into an overall score. Based on the overall score, one of the following ratings is assigned to each school: Exceptional, High-Performing, Commendable, Acceptable, Needs Improvement, and Priority.

The Iowa School Report Card rates schools on up to eight educational measures: (Please see the Iowa Department of Education website for the description of each measure)

Proficiency

Closing Achievement Gap

College and Career-Ready Growth

Annual Expected Growth

College and Career Readiness

Graduation Rate- (High Schools Only)

Attendance

Staff Retention

We are very pleased to announce that Norwalk Middle School scored a **70.6** overall rating which places us as a ***High Performing Middle School***. 14% of the Middle Schools in the State of Iowa fall into the categories of High Performing or Exceptional. This is a very big honor for the students and for the staff on NMS.

Congratulations to Aubrey Williamson, Elaina Schumacher and Colin Frederick for being selected to sing in the 30th Annual State Opus Honor Choir on November 19th, 2015 at C.Y. Stephens Auditorium on the ISU campus in Ames, Iowa. Over 3200 students auditioned for 720 spots in four choirs; 5th & 6th grade choir, treble choir, bass choir and ninth grade choir. Norwalk middle school has had students selected for this prestige honor every year since it started in 1986.

Norwalk Eastview School hosted the twenty-fifth 8th Grade Choral Festival on October 19th. Schools from Atlantic, Martensdale-St.Marys, I35, Carlisle, Ballard Huxley, Clarke and Norwalk participated with over 250 eighth graders singing together. John Hayden from Benton high school directed the mass choir. It takes a special talent to keep 250 students engaged learning music for four hours and John has that talent.

Parents and Caseys Pizza volunteered and donated food to serve during the supper hour. Miss Churchman and Mrs. Nielsen were festival coordinators. Congratulations on another successful choral festival.

Note from the Nurse

As the flu and cold season begins to visit us, just a reminder to keep your students home for a fever of 100.0 or above. Students need to be without a fever for 24 hours without fever reducing medications prior to returning to school. Students should also be without vomiting and/or diarrhea symptoms for 24 hours prior to returning to school.

All students need to go through the nurse's office if not feeling well prior to going home. If your student should text or call you, please ask them if they have checked in with the nurse. For any questions or concerns, please contact Laura Johnson RN,BSN, MS Nurse at 981-0435 or through email at ljohnson@norwalk.k12.ia.us

Check out the New Website

Be sure to check out the new district web-site. Announcements, updates, important dates and pictures will be updated weekly. It is another great way to stay connected to the Middle School.

Expectations at Ball Games and Wrestling Meets:

Norwalk Middle School continues to have great attendance at extra-curricular events. I am always pleased with our representation and support at all occasions. Certain behavior expectations are always required at these venues. Cheering from the crowd does help the athletes as they try their hardest to compete. We want to be sure the cheering and behavior remains positive. The following expectations are in place for all in attendance: All students are expected to be seated in the bleachers during the play of the contest. Students should only leave the bleachers during half times and between games. Please act and cheer appropriately. Do not loiter in the gym foyer or hallways. Students are prohibited from playing or loitering in the balcony area in the high school gym. Norwalk 6th graders are to sit in the designated area of the bleaches or with a parent/guardian. Students not meeting the expectations will be reminded once and then asked to leave if the behavior does not improve. Again, we encourage everyone to attend and support the Warriors this winter. Remember, your sportsmanship, fair play and responsible fan behavior is being watched by others. We want to represent Norwalk Middle School in a positive manner at all times.

Traffic in the Middle School Parking Lot:

I would like to thank the vast majority of you who have been doing an excellent job of being considerate and safe when you let your children off in the morning and pick your children up in the afternoon. As I observe in the morning I see parents, grandparents, and siblings pull as far to the right and as far forward as possible before letting the students out. This enables traffic to continue to move as smoothly and safely as possible. Please remember that the lot is for parking and not a shortcut for leaving the area. Please continue to use the drive when exiting. Everyone appreciates your consideration and cooperation. It has been brought to my attention, however, that there are a few who are making it difficult for the many in the afternoon. Please do not park in the drive adjacent to the parking lot or in front of cars already parked in the parking lot. When you do this you make it impossible for others to get around you and traffic backs up. Instead of parking in the drive next to the parking lot, please park in the lot. This will allow others to maintain a smooth flow of traffic. Your cooperation would be appreciated by many. Now that the winter weather is upon us, please take extra time and care watching for those that are walking in, around, or near the cars. The safety of our students and staff is a number one priority. Our weather will be changing quickly and pedestrians may find the walking surfaces as slippery as the motoring public. It only takes an instant for someone to fall into a moving car. Remember, when a person and a vehicle come together, the person does not win. Just a reminder, you are not to pick your student up at Eastview between the hours of 3:00pm and 3:45pm. As a safety measure, we are trying to separate personal vehicle traffic from bus traffic as much as possible. If you need to pick your child up during the indicated time, please make arrangements to meet them at the Middle School or High School parking lots.

Important Dates to Remember

- Jan. 4** **Classes Resume**
- Jan. 15** **End of 1st Semester**
- Jan. 18** **No School- Teacher Work Day**
- Feb. 15** **Secondary Conferences 5-8 P.M.**
- Feb. 17** **Secondary Conferences 5-8 P.M.**
- Feb. 18** **Secondary Conferences 10 A.M. - 8 P.M. No School 6th-12th**
- No school K-12 Feb. 19**



Eastview

Jody Ratigan - Principal

Eastview 9th Grade First Semester Test Schedule & Open Campus Incentive 2015-2016

Times	Wednesday, January 13	Times	Thursday, January 14	Friday, January 15
8:05 – 9:35	2	8:05 – 9:35	8	3
9:50 – 11:20	4	9:50 – 11:20	6	7
11:20 – 11:45	TA or OCI	11:20 – 11:45	TA or OCI	TA or OCI *
11:45 – 12:15	Lunch	11:45 – 12:15	Lunch	Lunch
12:30 – 2:00	1	12:20 – 1:00	TA or OCI	TA or OCI/Make-ups
		1:00 – 2:30	5 (TA) or OCI/Make-ups	9 or OCI/Make-ups
		2:30 – 4:00	TA or OCI/Make-ups	TA or OCI/Make-ups

As a 9th grader, you are required to be at school from 8:05 – 3:25 on all three semester test days unless you qualify for the Open-Campus Incentive (OCI) and meet the criteria listed below. Students who don't qualify for the OCI will be required to report to their advisement teacher to complete missing work and graduation portfolio artifacts. To qualify, you must:

- be passing all classes
- have all fines and fees paid
- have artifacts 1-5 below completed. An * indicates a requirement *if* the student is in that course this semester

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Responsibility & Teamwork Form (Collaboration Form) 2. Writing Sample 3. Reading Log 4. Responsibility and Work Ethic Goals 5. Service hours (Half of desired diploma) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2000 calorie menu* (Health) ○ 5 day food log* (Health) ○ Extra-Curricular* ○ Service Learning Reflection* ○ I Have A Plan Iowa* (Tech I) ○ Fitness Plan* (PE)
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

- submit the permission slip with a parent/guardian signature to the advisement teacher
- *To be dismissed at 11:20 on Tuesday, students must have 8 of the artifacts completed.

If students earn the OCI privilege, but choose to stay at school, the high school library is available as a quiet study area from 7:45 a.m. until 3:20 p.m. each testing day. If students would like to socialize or prepare for exams in a more relaxed environment, please go to the cafeteria. Roaming the halls of any building is not an option, as this distracts test-takers and students who have class.

Buses will run on the regular schedule. Students qualifying for the Open Campus Incentive will need to arrange for their own ride or wait in the cafeteria for the bus.

Semester Test Reminders to Students:

Tests are comprehensive. Study ALL of your notes from the ENTIRE semester, check your teacher's web page for practice tests or study guides, and review your old assessments. Studying a little bit each night will help you more than cramming the night before.

Be on time for each exam. Most teachers will lock their doors when the testing time begins. If you are late and locked out, you will need to report to the Eastview office immediately. Students who miss their exam will be required to make it up during the time period designated for make-ups. If you have a study hall, report to your usual study hall location during that testing period. Use your passing time wisely: go to your locker, get a snack/drink, and use the restroom. Teachers will not allow you to leave the room during the entire testing period (even if you are finished with your test) as this disrupts other students who are testing.

Golden Attitude Honorees:

The staff at Eastview recognizes 8th and 9th grade students exhibiting Golden Attitudes.

The Golden Attitude Award is presented to students who contribute to our school in a positive manner through the attitude they display and their interactions with others.

Recipients of the Golden Attitude Award thus far this year include:

8th Grade Students:

September: Drew Leek, Emily Ellis, Dean Kimball, Madison Sweet, and Sophie Adams;

October: Clayton McKenzie, Anthony Marks, Nicole Good, Lilly Quade, and Ethan Vetterick;

November: Zach Marker, Riley Jermier, Abbey Bowles, Ellie Cox, and Tessa Palmer

9th Grade Students:

September : Colt Stewart, Aaron Adams, Jaeda Isley, Katy Faust, and Abby Bunch;

October : Seth Hanson, Annie Balk, Evy Platner, Shirley Ortega, and Bryce Kohls;

November : Zach Dye, Nicholas Serck, Emma Burnett, Ellie Riter, and Briley Sodergren

Registration for Next School Year (2016-2017)

Eastview students will be registering for next year's classes at the end of January. Sarah Adams, Dean of Students, will be going into the 8th grade classrooms to review course choices in January. All 8th and 9th grade students will be registering in early February. The students will be developing and/or updating their 4-year plans at this time, as well.

Parent Night---for current 8th grade parents

An 8th grade parent information night will be held on **Tuesday, January 26, 2016** in the Auditorium at 6:30 pm. This will be a good time for 8th grade parents to learn about high school graduation requirements the elective courses your students can take as Freshmen. Yes, you are very close to being the parent of a graduation-credit-earning student!

2nd Semester Parent/Teacher Conferences

Conferences at Eastview for the 2nd Semester will be student-led. Thus, families will have scheduled times to meet with their student's advisor to review academic progress and future plans. In the conference, your student will present his standardized test scores, career goals, and four year plan. Eighth grade students will introduce the Norwalk graduation requirements and tiered diplomas, while the 9th grade students will discuss their portfolio progress, RAI score, and course selection. **As the Iowa Department of Education requires parents to sign-off on their student's four year plan, parental attendance is very important.**

Parent/Teacher Conference Dates

Monday, February 15

5:00-8:00 p.m.

Regular School Day

Student Led Conferences

Wednesday, February 17

5:00-8:00 p.m.

Regular School Day

Student Led Conferences

Thursday, February 18

10:00-4:00 p.m.

4:00-5:00 p.m.

5:00-8:00 p.m.

NO SCHOOL 6-12

Team Conferences (Teacher Scheduled)

Dinner Break

Student Led Conferences

Friday, February 19

NO SCHOOL K-12 NO CONFERENCES

Eastview Students---Just Be NICE!

Recently, there have been incidents within the school day of students "just messing around." They will state, "It's OK. We're friends. We're just joking around." However, even though they are friends, they are crossing the respect line with one another in what they say and do to each other. Just be nice to one another. Golden Rule and Beyond! **Norwalk is a great community and we can do better!**

Students and parents are reminded that the Eastview website has a link available for reporting bullying/harassment.

Technology Use

Eastview students are able to use their cell phones during passing periods and during lunch. There are occasions when teachers allow students to use their phones during class time for educational purposes. Even with increased opportunities to send/receive messages, inappropriate uses during class time still exist. Our practice is to confiscate the phone until the end of the day and issue a warning to the student. Multiple offenses have increased consequences and parent contact. Interestingly, students sending/reviewing text messages with parents account for some of the problems. Please advise your student to only send/review messages during passing time or lunch.

If there is an emergency and a parent needs to contact their child, we ask that parents call 981-9655 and we will contact the student. We will continue to deliver messages to students in the least disruptive manner.

Illness Procedures

Flu season is upon us. Prior approval is needed from the school nurse and/or contact from the building secretary before a student is permitted to leave the building. This process ensures the legitimacy of the illness as well as maintains the security of monitoring students for attendance purposes. With the increased use of cell phones, occasionally students have contacted parents directly without making a connection with the nurse or main office. Please encourage your student to follow these outlined procedures in order to ensure the safety measures established by the school district.

Passes To Leave School Early

When leaving early from school for appointments, students should obtain a pass from the office in order to be released from class. This is the student's responsibility. If your student is unaware of a scheduled appointment, please call and we will deliver the message to your student along with a pass to be dismissed from class.

Vehicle Traffic

Please be reminded that after school pick-up for 8th and 9th graders is located on the north side of the high school (near band/choir) or at the Middle School. **Only bus traffic will be allowed at the 17th Street entrance from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

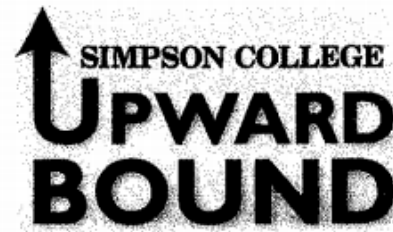
Student Parking

Freshmen are able to park in the furthest east lot of the Eastview 8/9 school parking lot. A valid school permit (issued by the DOT) is required in order to obtain a parking tag. The DOT School permit form and parking application materials are available to students upon request from the EV office. Freshmen are not permitted to park in any of the HS lots during school hours.

YEARBOOKS

Early price for purchasing an Eastview yearbook is \$25 until January 31st. Beginning February 1st, the price will increase to \$28. You may order the Eastview Yearbook online at Jostens.com. Submit sport/activity photos to Nissa Greenquist by sending her an email. ngreenquist@norwalk.k12.ia.us

We are looking for college-bound students like you, to join our program!



What is Upward Bound?

Simpson College Upward Bound is a program to increase the rate at which students complete high school and enroll in college. Upward Bound is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education Grant. Students in grades 9-12 whose parents did not graduate from a four year college or whose family meets income guidelines, qualify for free tutoring, academic advising, and other college preparatory services. For more details, please visit our website at <http://simpson.edu/trio/upward-bound/>.

How do I know if I am eligible to apply?

- Attend East, Lincoln, North, Indianola, Norwalk or Southeast Warren High School
- Complete 8th grade, but have not yet completed 11th grade
- Demonstrate a commitment to education
- Family meets the low income guidelines **and/or** neither parent has a bachelor's degree



What kinds of activities and services are offered?

- College visits and admissions assistance
- Free tutoring
- Cultural activities & trips
- Workshops to increase test taking and study skills
- Career exploration activities
- Financial aid exploration
- Much, much, more...
- ALL OF OUR SERVICES ARE FREE AND YOU GET PAID!!!

Do I really get paid?

Each month during the academic year (Sept-May) students are eligible to receive \$40 cash stipend for full participation. If activities are missed, the student can receive a partial stipend.

What can you tell me about the summer program?

Our summer program is a six week residential academic program. Our students live on Simpson College campus and take courses in math, science, English and foreign language. We also include enrichment courses, social activities, field trips, and college visits. At the end of the summer program, we take the students on a cultural trip. Past destinations have included Kansas City, MO; Dallas, TX; Nashville, TN; and Chicago, IL.



If you are interested in joining Upward Bound, or would like more information please contact:

Sandra Erickson
Program Director
sandra.erickson@simpson.edu
515-961-1479

Tabatha Lamb
Academic Advisor
tabatha.lamb@simpson.edu
515-961-1860

Reahna Singleton
Administrative Assistant
reahna.singleton@simpson.edu
515-961-1210

Norwalk High School News

Chris Basinger, Principal

2015-2016 First Semester Test Schedule

Date	Period	Times
Wednesday, January 13	Per 2	8:05-9:35
	Per 4	9:50-11:20
	Per 1	12:30-2:00
Thursday, January 14	Per 8	8:05-9:35
	Per 6	9:50-11:20
	Per 5	1:00-2:30
	Make Up	2:30-4:00
Friday, January 15	Per 3	8:05-9:35
	Per 7	9:50-11:20
	Per 9	1:00-2:30
	Make Up	2:30-4:00

Please note that buses will run on on their regular schedule during semester finals.

Students in grades 10-12 will have open campus during final exams. Lunch will be available to students. Quiet study in the library will be available from 7:45am until 3:20pm. The student lounge will be open to students wishing to prepare for exams in a more relaxed environment. Students with an excused, late arrival to a testing period may have their test rescheduled on Thursday afternoon. All students will stay in their testing room the entire testing period. No changes to the exam schedule are allowed unless permission is received from a Dean or the building Principal. If a student is ill on a test day, his/her parent MUST call the school that day so the absence can be excused. Any student missing an exam will have one day after the testing period to complete the test. The test will be recorded as an "F" if not made up in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the teacher for make-up exams. Students are to arrange work schedules and other activities around the test schedule. Students may be denied "open campus" privileges for disciplinary reasons.

High School Parent-Teacher Conferences

During the week of February 18 the following schedule will be used at the High School:

Monday, February 15	Regular school day Conferences 5:00 – 8:00pm
Tuesday, February 16	Regular school day
Wednesday, February 17	Regular School Day Conferences 5:00-8:00pm

Thursday, February 18	No School Conferences 10:00pm – 4:00pm
Friday, February 19	No School No conferences

2016-2017 Registration

The Deans will begin registering students for 2016-2017 courses shortly after the start of second semester. Please have conversations with your student about the courses they are signing up for. A link to the curriculum guide can be found on the high school website at <http://www.norwalkschools.org/schools/norwalk-high-school/>.

DMACC Career Academy

Students will soon begin signing up for classes offered through the DMACC Career Academy located in the Southridge Mall. The following website contains a list of classes available to Norwalk students: <https://go.dmac.edu/southridge/Pages/careeracademy.aspx>

Iowa Assessments

Student will take The Iowa Assessments during the week of March 1.

After Prom

Is a drug and alcohol free event held immediately following Prom. This year it will be held on April 30, 2016. After Prom is a night full of activities. There are inflatables, game, DJ, photo booth and food. The night ends with prizes and a hypnotist. The cost is \$30.00 paid in advance. Parents may send the money to Box 177, Norwalk, Iowa 50211 or drop it off at the high school office..

The committee is made up of parents and community members. Anyone interested in helping can contact Theresa Webb (webb2t@aol.com or 490-0211 or Kathy Fazio (kfazio7569@msn.com) or 285-0980.

Tournament/State Competition Absences

Parents are reminded of the school's position on students attending tournament activities. It is our hope that students are supportive of the teams representing the school. However, it seems that some students are supportive only when they can be absent from school.

Questions a parent might want to ask prior to granting permission for their son or daughter to attend are:

- Have you regularly attended these activities?
- Would you attend if the competition were on Saturday?
- Are you passing all of your classes?
- What time does the activity begin?

When attending a competition that involves absence from school, arrangements must be made with teachers in advance. In addition Mrs. Enderlin must be presented with a parent's note excusing the student two days prior to the absence. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence and a loss of credit.

Driver Education

Students may register on line at www.drivetek.com or by mail to 9120 NW 26th St. Ankeny, IA 50023. Students must also have their driver permit to register for a class. Since space is limited in each session, eligible students are selected on a first come first served basis. In addition, a registration form must be completed and the fee paid in full the first day of class. Fees are paid to DriveTek. For registration information, call 800-342-0033 or 515-633-2408.

Graduation Information

Announcements/Cap/Gown - School order day was September 25th. If have not ordered, orders can be placed online at www.iowagradshop.com

If you have questions, please contact Judy Reed at Jostens in Ankeny at [1-800-863-0961](tel:1-800-863-0961). Every student needs a cap, gown, tassel and senior medallion. There are also additional optional items to purchase.

Delivery Date is Tuesday, April 5th from 11:00am-1:00pm outside the main office at the high school. Orders can be picked up by students or parents.

Senior Class Group Photo was taken in October. Pictures can be ordered online at www.johnsonphotostudio.com

Senior Yearbook Picture deadline is Friday, March 12th. Please send a JPEG to Jim Cook, yearbook advisor at jcook@norwalk.k12.ia.us

Senior Baby Ads for Yearbook - photo, message and \$25 are due by Friday, April 15th. Send a JPEG to Jim Cook, yearbook advisor at jcook@norwalk.k12.ia.us

Immunization Cards will be mailed out by the High School nurse's office after spring break. Be sure to put this record in a safe place. An official copy is not kept by the school.

Senior Picnic - Thursday, May 26th at 11:30 at Windflower Park

Senior Honors Night - Thursday, May 26th at 7:00pm at Norwalk Performing Arts Center

Graduation Practice - Friday, May 27th at 10:00am at Blake Fieldhouse – must attend!

GRADUATION - Saturday, May 28th at 10:00am at Blake Fieldhouse in Indianola, 403 S. 15th Street, east side of Indianola just off Hwy 92 at the Indianola Middle School

For reserved handicapped seating, please email Deb Fairfax at the High School at dfairfax@norwalk.k12.ia.us



2015-2016 Norwalk Community School Calendar

	M	T	W	TH	F
Aug	(24) 31	25	26	27	28
Sept	(7) 14 21 28	1 8 15 22 29	2 9 16 23 30	3 10 17 24	4 11 18 25
Oct	5 12 19 26	6 13 20 27	7 14 21 28	1 8 15 22 29	2 9 16 23 30
Nov	(2) 9 16 23 30	(3) 10 17 24	(4) 11 18 25	(5) 12 19 26 (27)	(6) 13 20 27
Dec	7 14 (21) (28)	1 8 15 22 29	2 9 16 23 30	3 10 17 24 31	4 11 18 25
Jan	4 11 <18> 25	5 12 19 26	6 13 20 27	7 14 21 28	(1) 8 15 22 29
Feb	1 8 (15) 22 29	2 9 16 23	3 10 17 24	4 11 18 25	5 12 19 26
Mar	7 (14) 21 28	1 8 (15) 22 29	2 9 16 23 30	3 10 17 24 31	4 11 18 25
Apr	4 11 18 25	5 12 19 26	6 13 20 27	7 14 21 28	1 8 15 22 29
May	2 9 16 23 (30)	(3) 10 17 24 31	(4) 11 18 25	(5) 12 19 26	(6) 13 20 27
June			1	(2)	3

LEGEND	
()	First and last day of school
00	Early Dismissal -
Teacher Prof. Dev.	1:30/2:00 Dismissal
☐	Conference Days
☐	Holidays/Vacation Days, No School
< - >	In-service/Work Day, No School

Aug 24 - First Day of School 1:30 Elementary/2:00 Secondary Dismissal
25 & 26 - 1:30 Elementary/2:00 Secondary Dismissal

Sept 2 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
7 Labor Day - NO SCHOOL K - 12

9 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
16 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
23 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
30 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal

Oct 7 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
14 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
21 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
28 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
26 - End of 1st Quarter

Nov 2 Conferences - Oviatt Only 4:30 - 7:30 PM
3 Conferences - Lakewood Only - 4:30 - 7:30 PM
Secondary (6 - 9) 4:30 - 7:30
Secondary (10 - 12) 4:30 - 8:30

4 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
Elementary Conferences 4:30 - 7:30 PM
Secondary (6 - 9) 4:30 - 7:30
Secondary (10 - 12) 4:30 - 8:30

5 **NO SCHOOL K - 5 ONLY**
Elementary Conferences 10 - 8 PM

6 **NO SCHOOL K - 12** NO SCHOOL K - 12
11 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal

18 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
25-27 **Thanksgiving** NO SCHOOL K - 12

Dec 2 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
9 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal

16 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
21-31 **Winter Break** NO SCHOOL K - 12

Jan 1 New Year's Day (No School) NO SCHOOL K - 12
4 Classes resume

6 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
15 End of 1st Semester (2nd Quarter)

18 **Teacher Work Day** NO SCHOOL K - 12
20 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal

27 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
Feb 3 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal

10 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
15 Conferences - Oviatt Only - 4:30 - 7:30 PM
Secondary Conferences 5 - 8 PM

17 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
Secondary Conferences 5 - 8 PM

18 **NO SCHOOL 6 - 12 ONLY**
Secondary Conferences 10 - 8 PM

19 **No School K-12** NO SCHOOL K - 12
24 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal

Mar 2 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
9 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal

14-18 **Spring Break** NO SCHOOL K - 12
23 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal

29 End of 3rd Quarter
30 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal

Apr 6 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
13 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal

20 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
27 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal

May 3 Conferences - Lakewood Only - 4:30 - 7:30 PM
4 Elementary Conferences 4:30 - 7:30 PM

4 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
5 **NO SCHOOL K - 5 ONLY**
Elementary Conferences 10 - 8 PM

6 **No School K - 12** NO SCHOOL K - 12
11 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal

18 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
25 Last day for seniors

28 Graduation
30 **Memorial Day** NO SCHOOL K - 12

Jun 1 1:30 Elementary (K-5)/2:00 Secondary (6-12) Dismissal
2 Tentative Last Day of School-Dismissal 12:00 Elem/12:30 Secondary

If school is delayed on a day with an early dismissal, the early dismissal will be cancelled and school will be dismissed at its regular time.

BOARD APPROVED: 4/13/15