

**Holdingsford Elementary School
Principal's Newsletter
January 2019**



A Principal's New Year's Wish

**May life grant you:
12 months of Happiness,
52 weeks of Fun,
365 days of Success,
8760 hours of Good Health,
525600 minutes of Good Luck,
And 3,153,600 seconds of Joy!**



Thank You:

Dear Staff, Students, Families, and Community Members,
From the bottom of my heart I want to thank you for your generosity and kindness given to our school and families/children in need. Through support of PTA fundraisers, building a new playground, book fairs...thank you! You help create an environment that helps every child grow towards their fullest potential. I want to thank everyone in our community who offered prayers and support, money, and presents for all those in need. I have never, ever worked in such a place. We have something really, really special. We are living proof that it takes a village to raise healthy and productive children and families. It is an honor and a privilege being your Elementary Principal. Thank you for supporting our staff and our children.



Thank you, Holdingsford Fire and Rescue:

Happy New Year HFD! Thank you for always being there for our school and our communities. Whether the sun is shining or snow is falling, through the worst of times and best of times, you faithfully serve by helping all in need. We are proud of you. We thank you for your service. Keep up the GREAT work. Our Husker appreciations, prayers, and well wishes go to all of our surrounding departments. We love you, we pray for your safety and wellness; we thank you for your support! From all of us at Holdingsford Public Schools....THANK YOU! Happy New Year!



A Note From Your Principal:

Happy New Year! I hope our newsletter finds your family in good health, full of heartfelt happiness, Husker Pride, and with a positive outlook on life and our school! Our elementary school ended the calendar year on a most positive note. Jingo Bingo was an absolute hoot, our building-wide Christmas sing-along was an amazing success, and our PTA did a fantastic job recognizing our fall fundraiser top selling students. I am sure proud of our entire student body and families for supporting the fall fundraiser and appreciate the extra effort of our top selling students. 15 students earned the honor of throwing a pie in my face. What a good time...my cheeks were sore from smiling and laughing. A huge thank you to Mr. Talberg! He saw on face book a student in 6th grade really wanted to put a pie in his face. Way to take one for the team Mr. Talberg! I am proud of you! I am happy to say, up to this point, each and every one of our children is working hard to be an outstanding Husker student and friend. Please keep up the fantastic work, kids! I am proud to be your principal and I enjoy working with each and every one of our children. Through good times and troubled times, I am always amazed at how honest our children are, how polite they are, and I love bragging to just about anyone that will listen, that when our children do make a mistake, almost 99% of the time our staff, children, and supportive families fix what needs to be fixed to ensure our school stays safe, clean, and a positive, fun place to learn, laugh, and grow. Holdingford elementary is filled with OUTSTANDING children and we have an AMAZINGLY talented and dedicated staff.

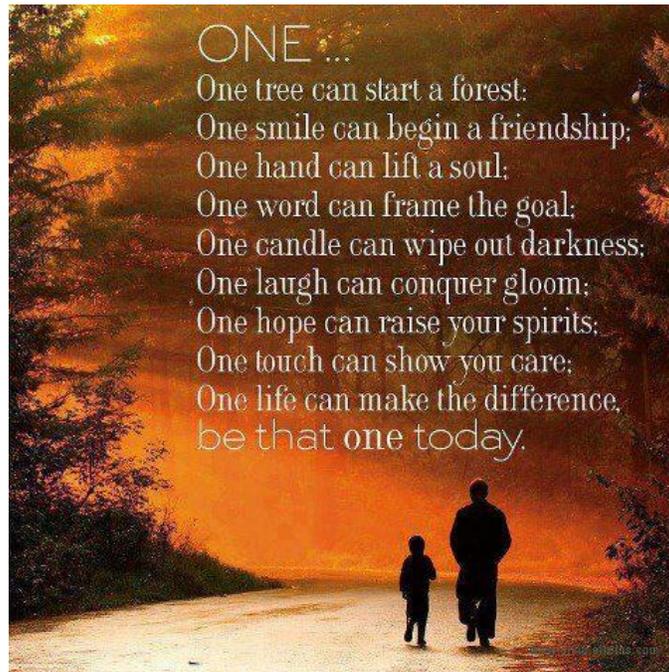
Parents, thank you very much for your support and for making your child's elementary education priority number 1. It is an honor to work with your children! Together, we make a difference! Happy New Year!



Thank You, Paraprofessionals:

It is an honor and privilege to start our new year acknowledging the dedication of our paraprofessionals. I can't thank them enough for their never-ending energy, positive attitudes, patience, and for the high standards of care they give day in and day out to our children. Simply stated, our Husker paraprofessionals are the very BEST!

Who are they? What do they do for our children and school? I am glad you asked. Our paraprofessionals are individuals who work in a variety of positions in our school district. Their roles include, but are not limited to, those who work as instruction assistants, Title 1 support, special education paraprofessionals, lunch room and playground assistants, hall monitors, media center assistants, and more! Our paraprofessionals do so much to help our children learn and our teachers teach! Be sure to recognize our amazing paraprofessionals this month. Parents and teachers, please take a minute to send a note, stop by and say thanks for a job well done, or simply remind your child to say "thank you" for being a huge part of an outstanding school.



A huge, heartfelt, and sincere “Husker Thank You” to all our support staff that go above and beyond the call of duty to give every child a sense of belonging. Each day you recognize and celebrate the differences that make each child unique and special! We love working with you and you truly make our school better, if not BEST, for children!



Parents, Please Support and Discuss Bus Rules:

- Always stay seated and face the front.
- Please keep legs and backpacks out of the bus aisle.
- Always use a quiet voice.
- Be a great Husker friend and use kind words.
- Treat yourself, your bus driver, and other students with respect.



Homework:

- Thank you for supporting your child’s education and their teacher by checking your child’s Husker High Five green folder or grade level agenda nightly. Go over daily work with praise and with reasonable, but high expectations.
- Read every night!
- Practice math facts!

Practice spelling!

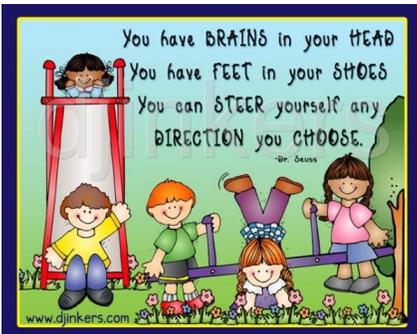
Encourage and build a strong work ethic!

We are blessed to have such supportive and talented families and a staff that is top notch. Let's help our children be the best they can be while knowing as parents and educators, every child learns to crawl, walk, talk, read, spell, and interprets number sense and mathematics differently. I promise we will work tirelessly to recognize those differences, encourage children each day to try their best, be their best, and work to their fullest potential. Together we can foster the love of learning and make our school, families, and community stronger, safer places to learn, laugh, and love!



Classroom, Bathroom, Lunchroom Expectations:

Build your Husker Integrity! It is easy to have good character when parents and teachers are watching. Husker Integrity is defined by doing the right things when no one is watching. Always use quiet voices and walking feet, keep hands to ourselves, treat each other and school property with respect and care, and last but not least, be a friend, not a bully!



Help Our School be a Safe Place to Learn and Grow:

With your family, please revisit that we never bring weapons of any kind to school. This includes play guns and knives.

No parking in front of the Elementary School along the yellow Curb.

Please, no transportation changes after 2:30 pm.

Please do not drop off children at school earlier than 7:40 and if picking your child up from school, do so in a timely manner. The parking lot can be extremely busy after school. Please hold on to your little Husker's hand when walking to the car.

After school, all elementary students should get on their school bus at the elementary. No going to the high school in hopes of having a little down time or time to visit vending machines (they are not always on anyway).

Thank you for supporting our school and our Holdingford community! Let's please work together to make 2019 as productive, safe, and joyous as possible! It takes a village to raise a child and many hands make light work...belonging to our Husker Family means you are never alone and we work together to help all children be the very best they can be! Thank you!



Attendance and Achievement! We need your help and support!

Happy New Year! All of us at Holdingford Elementary hope your family made many wonderful holiday memories and your entire family is feeling well rested. I am super excited to settle into winter months filled with social and academic growth. In order to maximize your student's potential, it is critical they attend school every day. Parents who let their kids miss a lot of school may be setting them up for academic failure. Researcher Mary Frase tracked students who dropped out of high school. One thing that nearly all of them had in common was poor attendance.

One of the most important things you can do as a parent is to get your child to school on time every day. As we begin the New Year, assist your child to establish the following habits:

- **Enforce a regular bedtime** for your child. Make sure you have an evening routine that includes some time for reading.
- **Make sure your child is organized** so he/she can get out the door with what he/she needs.
- **Prioritize the activities** you add to the schedule. If you add lots of before-and after-school activities, you take away time for your child to read, play, and study.

Thank you for all you do for our school. I tell our children all the time that it is a privilege to ride the school bus. I believe it is a privilege to be your principal and an honor to work with your children and our phenomenal staff. In 2019, let's continue to support each other and our children by holding high but fair expectations regarding attendance, effort, and behaviors in hopes that concern and attention in the days ahead will create a better future for our school, families, and our community. Happy New Year!



January/February Assessments:

As we return from our holiday break, your child will be performing some standardized assessments.

1. Aimsweb: Early literacy and numeracy skills to assess a variety of measures in your child's ability to recognize and produce letters, sounds, words, and number fundamentals necessary in grades Kindergarten – 2.
2. MCA Optional Local Purpose Assessment Computerized Math test will be taken at the beginning of February and is designed to measure a student's growth based on Minnesota math and reading standards.
3. Fluency: The fluency assessments are general outcome measurement tools used by educators to quickly obtain information and measure growth in reading fluency and math facts of students in grades 1-6.

The individual results and normative data will be used when making educational decisions on our students' academic skills and programming options. We are looking forward to comparing fall reading, math, and fluency scores with current levels of achievement.

Please encourage your child to do their best work so we get an accurate portrait of student ability and growth. In 2019, please create a family time that includes turning off the TV, setting aside cell phones, and encouraging your child(ren) to read every night and complete their homework. Thank you.



Notes from your K–12 Social Worker, Mrs. Johnson-Kolb:

Welcome back from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, travel, sugar over load and much more! After almost two weeks off of school, the New Year is a perfect time to talk about school-wide expectations and safety measures with students. I would like to encourage all parents to review our Husker High Five and what it means to be safe on the bus. The Husker High Five consists of three simple guidelines:

I show my Husker integrity by:

- Being Ready
- Being Respectful
- Being Responsible

Every Day and Everywhere!

Being Ready: Talk with your children about what being ready to ride the bus looks like. If a child is being ready they are on time for the bus. They are following the safety rules set by their bus drivers. They are getting on and off the bus without horse play and are crossing the road when directed by their driver.

Being Respectful: Talk with your children about using kind words and quiet voices with others on the bus. Being respectful means offering to let someone sit with you even if you don't really know them. Being respectful means taking care of your property and space while also respecting other students' property and space.

Being Responsible: Being responsible on the bus includes being respectful and ready, but it also means that students take greater care of their surroundings. Responsible means safety comes first. This is shown by students facing forward, using quiet voices, using Husker manners, and listening to the bus driver's directives the first time they are asked to fix a problem behavior.

Students who follow these three simple Husker High Five rules show that they have integrity and care about themselves and others. Students who demonstrate the ability to follow these rules keep other Holdingford students safe on and off the bus!



"A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every passerby leaves a mark"

- Old Chinese Proverb

We Love Our Husker Preschoolers:

It is wonderful to share our days with our littlest Huskers! Simply stated, I love everything about our Birth-3's classes and our School Readiness programs. Thank you, Ms. Lichy, Ms. Szczech, Ms. Pick, and Ms. Schwalbe, Ms. Primus, Ms. Nelson, and our preschool support staff, for all you do for our littlest Husker learners! I am proud of our program and I am grateful for all your hard work, passion, and energy. You build a strong Husker Nation Foundation and better tomorrows! If ever visiting our school with a littlest Husker, please stop by our library and ask Mrs. Wenderski to show you our Little Husker Book Nook. Thank you, Mrs. Wenderski, for creating a little reader space. Very, very Husker COOL!



January Dates to Remember:

- January 8th Holdingford Elementary PTA Meeting starting at 7 pm in Elementary Media Center
- January 12th Spelling Bee 12:30 pm in HS Little Theatre
- January 17th Quarter 2 Ends!
- January 18th No School Teacher Workshop
- January 21nd No School In-Service

HUSKER FAMILY FOREVER!

