

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



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Student Compact:

Attention Families? Can you please take some time over the weekend to review your child's Husker High Five Student compact and school wide expectations? Many hands make light work and helps students, families, and our staff stay on the same page. Thank you big time!

Greetings Husker Family,

I hope this newsletter finds you doing well and life is treating you kindly. It seems like forever since my last newsletter. There is so much to share, so many things to be grateful for.

Parents, Guardians, Family Members, Community Members, thank you for helping us keep the doors open, for being kind, caring and helpful this year. So many changes, so many perspectives and uncertainties. I am proud that our school family has worked super hard on keeping children learning, staying healthy, keeping children home when they are sick, and understanding that we do not make Covid19 rules, but by golly we abide respectfully because we want children in school and we want each and every one of us to come through this with health and happiness intact.

A huge thank you to my staff. The climate and culture of our school has been tested. You have been exemplary in your teaching. Thank you for sharing your positive outlook, your passion, and energy to help children learn, laugh, and grow.

Kids...I love you! I love being your principal! I love our school and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your hard work, your kindness, your smiles, bright eyes, laughter, and your Husker positive attitude. Not every day is easy, we have our fair share of challenges, but together, we can get through, and do, anything! I believe in us!

It is hard to believe the end of 2nd quarter is right around the corner. Let's please continue to work hard, play hard, stay healthy, laugh often, and be kind.

With Husker Love
Jim Stang

New Year Laughs and Wishes:

My favorite mask quotes: Mr. Stang, I don't like wearing my mask...it makes me smell my bad breath! I will wear two masks if I can go back to school tomorrow and not be in quarantine!
Masks are awesome when it is cold outside!

The Worst Book EVER! Ms. Gross' "The Book With No Pictures" Yep I got cool AGAIN for Christmas!

I have missed the most this year: Laughing and joking with our parents and Husker family members.

Biggest Dislike: Having 6th Grade in Hybrid Learning. Welcome back! I am happy for you!

GREATEST Celebrations: Being able to stay In-person Learning!

Wishes for New Year: We continue In-person Learning! Each and every Husker Family Member and community member stays healthy, keeps working, businesses open, and we all find ways to be happy, helpful, and count blessings by the 1000's. Families we have lost are healthy, happy, and will come back to us.

Husker Family Forever! AMEN!

Husker Love

Mr. Stang



Every student. Every day.

Attendance and Achievement! We need your help now more than ever:

Happy New Year from our entire Husker Family! We hope your family found time to make wonderful holiday memories and are feeling well rested and healthy. The Stang Gang had a great Christmas break. We worked a little, played a lot, lived small, and found joy in each day. I am super excited to be back at school as we settle into winter learning and winter friendships. In order to maximize your child's potential, it is critical they attend school every day. Parents who let their kids miss a lot of school maybe setting them up for academic struggles. Researcher Mary Frazee tracked students who dropped out of high school. One thing 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, help your child create and then follow these school and life healthy habits.

- Enforce a regular bedtime for your children. 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. Make sure to read each night, play, and study.
- Honor your learning plan. In-person, Hybrid, or Distance learning, try hard. Be the BEST you, you can be!

PARAPROFESSIONAL:

The heartfelt hero. Using their talents to help students discover their own. Dedicating their time and energy each day to the students in their care, and doing it all while meeting the individual needs of many.



#schoolheroes
Teresa Kwant

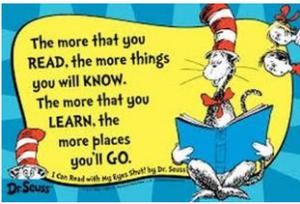
Paraprofessionals:

A huge Husker thank you to all our support staff for jobs well done. Your professional commitment to children and learning brightens each day with smiles, kindness, and social, emotional, and academic supports. Thank you for going the extra mile to make every child feel special. We are proud of you! We love working with you! Your commitment to learning and kindness makes our school a better place to learn, laugh, and grow!



January Assessments:

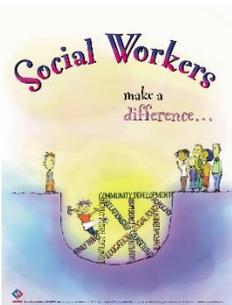
As we return from Christmas Break, your child will be taking winter benchmark AIMsweb reading and math testing. Individual results and normative data will be used when making educational decisions regarding teaching and programming. We always get excited to compare fall scores to winter performance. We love celebrating best efforts and growth. It is a ton of fun to see how much each child grows. Thank you for all your support and help at home. Please encourage your kiddo(s) to do their best work so we get an accurate portrait of student ability and growth.



Importance of Reading at Home:

1. Reading to your family nightly/regularly sets them up for school success.
2. Reading is important to develop language skills.
3. Exposure to reading and fun books exercises your child's brain.
4. Reading enhances your child's attention and concentration skills.
5. Reading together builds a child's curiosity and thirst for knowledge.
6. A range of books teaches children a variety of topics and expands a child's interests
7. Reading develops a child's imagination and creativity.
8. Reading books with children helps to develop empathy.
9. Books are fun! They are a great form of family entertainment.
10. Reading together helps create a family bond.

Please enjoy a good book and reading time together. Turn off the TV. Put your cell phone down and turn off the ringer. Leave the iPad and laptop behind, then grab a great book and enjoy some quiet time with your family. Books help us grow our Husker Smarts and Husker Character.



January Notes from our K-6 Grade Social Worker:

Welcome back from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, travel, super over load and much much more. After two weeks away from school and routine, the New Year is a perfect time to talk about school wide expectations and safety measures with students. Would like to encourage all parents to review our Husker High Five school wide slogan. Take some time to share what it means to be safe on-line, on the school bus, in school, and when out in the public.

**We show our Husker Integrity by:
Being Ready**

**Being Respectful
Being Responsible
Every Day, Everywhere.**



Winter Weather and Hazard Awareness: With the arrival of snow, please make sure your children are dressing appropriately for the weather. Boots, gloves, snow pants, hats, and jackets are required in order to play in the snow. Thank you very much for your support and for keeping your children safe from the winter's wrath. As we plan for another season of treacherous weather and road conditions, please read recommendations from the Stearns County Emergency Management System:

1. Always have appropriate clothing, including mittens and hat.
2. Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.
3. Know the warning signs of hypothermia: uncontrolled shivering, memory loss, slurred speech.
4. Keep extra supplies and food at home in case a storm prevents traveling.
5. Have a battery operated radio to listen to updates during a storm.
6. Create a home and car survival kit for you and your family.
7. Keep your gas tank at least half full to prevent the gas line from freezing.



School Closing Information:

TV:

WCCO Kare 11
KSTP Fox 9

Radio:

KASM KCLD
WJON WWJO
WYRO/KFML



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A calming Self Care Safe Place brought to you by Ms. Carrie Drew, Holdingford Elementary's very own AMAZING Social Worker:

<https://sites.google.com/isd738.k12.mn.us/mrs-drew-classroom/social-emotional-skills>



An After Christmas...All Husker Reminder! We Need Your Help!

What apps does your child have downloaded on their phone or personal device? If you do not know...please read on. If you think you know...please read on! I am asking all Husker parents and guardians to check on their children's internet usage. Please research and look at your children's personal devices and make sure that the sites they are visiting and **apps they are downloading** are school, age, and family values appropriate. If not, please remove them. By doing this, we keep our children safe and protect them from digital violence, inappropriate language and at risk behaviors, as well as help stop cyber bullying. Let's please stick together and protect our children. Take a moment to teach Husker character and remind your children that we have 4-year-old Husker School Readiness students riding the bus...Let's treat them well and expose them to top notch Husker friendship and family values!

Tech tip to help parents: Common Sense Media. Check it out at <https://www.commonsensemedia.org>. It is a great guide to age appropriate apps and other media including books and movies.

Together...we create better tomorrows! Thank you!



January Dates to Remember:

- January 12 PTA Meeting 7 pm
- January 18 No-School In-service
- January 22 End of 2nd Quarter
- January 25 No School Teacher Workshop

