



Holdingsford Elementary School

Principal's Newsletter July 2019



I LOVE Husker Summer School! I am pleased to share that our Summer School program is off to a GREAT start! It is so wonderful to have students and staff back in the building. A HUGE Husker thank you to our custodians for a job well done! Our school shines with Husker pride! I would also like to send out a HUGE Husker thank you to our teachers, support staff, and bus drivers for stepping up and helping out. It is wonderful to have staff and students back in the building. Smiles and laughter once again adorn our Husker hallways and classrooms. Great job, Principal Jill Schmitt! Your organization, communication, and kind caring heart have set the tone for a spectacular learning experience. I am proud of you, Jill! Keep up the SENSATIONAL work! Last but not least, I would like to thank Rodney Ebnet for calling every Summer School family conveying bus routes and times. Rodney, your level of customer service is exemplary. Thank you! Way to go team! Your efforts are greatly appreciated and you truly make a huge difference in the lives of our children!



Enrollment for 2019-2020 School Year:

Grade	# of Sections/Teachers	Number of children	Average Class Size
Kindergarten	4	78	19/20
1 st Grade	4	74	18/19
2 nd Grade	4	76	19
3 rd Grade	4	85	21/22
4 th Grade	4	80	20
5 th Grade`	3	70	17/18
6 th Grade	4	99	24/25

Total: 562 Husker Smiles

Open House



Holdingsford Elementary Open House August 28 5-7 pm:

With Holdingsford Daze this weekend, I am reminded not only how quickly the summer flies by, but also of our August Welcome back to School Open House. Please save this important date! Open House is one of my favorite events of the school year. The excitement and energy that comes from the start of a new school year is inspirational! Please make sure to stop by our PTA booth and fill out membership papers. It is a wonderful way to get to know other parents, while supporting your child's teacher and your school. Together...we help each other be BEST for kids!



New Staff at the Elementary:

School Readiness 4 year old Teacher Amanda McDonough

Kindergarten Teacher Madison Kealy

1st Grade Teacher Heidi Christman

3rd Grade Teacher Abby Wessel

4th Grade Teacher Hunter Ahrens

6th Grade Teacher Lydia Brandt

K-6 Elementary Social Worker Carrie Cremers

We welcome Angie Lichy to our Special Education team! Angie will also be teaching our 3 year old early childhood program!

Welcome Back Reading Corp Teachers Jody Bolton and Carlana Johnson

I am excited to announce the following inner school moves. Joy Swanson and Kyle VanOverbeke will be teaching 3rd grade Joy and Kyle, you will move mountains and brighten days in 3rd grade!



July notes from your K – 12 Social Worker:

PBIS and the Husker High Five way!

Holdingford Elementary School has created a set of expectations called the Husker High Five. We have shared them with the students and modeled them in our classrooms and on our buses. These expectations remain the same for students on the playground, in the cafeteria, while using the bathroom and when walking in the hallway. The Husker High Five was created to keep our school safe, positive and productive to learn and make friends. But, what about at home?

How can using PBIS and the Husker High Five help your family at home?

Expectations:

In your home you can use the same expectations of our school, Be Ready, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible Every Day Everywhere! When talking to your child about these expectations at home use this language to help define your rules and expectations. For example model for your child and expect them to use their Husker manners. Offer specific praise such as “thank you for being RESPONSIBLE by cleaning up after dinner.” Or “thank you for being READY for your swimming lesson today.”

Area specific visuals:

You can create area specific expectation posters for all the rooms of your house that set out what the specific expectations are for that setting. For each room you can create a poster that lays out what it means to be ready, respectful, and responsible. For example, in the kitchen a sign could inform your child that to be safe they should ask for help and use all materials properly. For being responsible they should wash hands and clean up after they eat. For being respectful they should say please and thank you and wait until everyone is served before eating.

Teaching behavioral lessons:

One cannot assume individuals (adults or youth) will be able to automatically reach our behavior expectations of them. We must take time to teach these behavior expectations and how one can reach them. At home you should take time on a weekly basis (or more often if needed) and work with your children on how to meet your behavior expectations. Practicing these skills and behaviors in the setting is effective; for example practice how one should do homework without distractions. You can also use role playing and talk through “what if” scenarios with your child.

Acknowledgements:

A crucial element of PBIS and the Husker High Five is acknowledging students who reach our behavioral expectations. Positive behaviors should be acknowledged verbally to encourage your child to continue to show those behaviors. One can also introduce tangible acknowledgements to help encourage your child to reach specific behavioral goals they are struggling with. One can set a certain behavioral expectation goal (cleaning up after dinner every day or remember to brush your teeth daily) and provide a tangible

acknowledgement when this behavioral goal is reached. Some examples of tangible acknowledgements could include:

- § Read a story to your child or have your child read to you.
- § Stay up 10 minutes past bedtime.
- § Cook his or her favorite dinner.
- § Provide computer time at home or at the public library.
- § Play a board game or complete a puzzle together.
- § Color or draw with your child.
- § Get out of having to do chores for a day.
- § Watch his or her favorite movie.
- § Help cook dinner.
- § Go for a walk outside together.
- § Send a positive note to your child's teacher about the good job your child is doing at home.
- § Or Mr. Stang's favorite, ice cream cone from the Dairy Queen.
- § Or Mrs. Johnson's favorite, a card game of the child's choice.

Husker High Five! Leading the way to a healthier, happier Holdingford Elementary!

Ready, Respectful, and Responsible Every Day Everywhere!



School Readiness Start Dates:

School Readiness classes begin September 4th and 5th with parent and child orientation. Regularly scheduled classes for School Readiness will start the week of September 9th.

**Save
the
Date**

Important Dates to Remember:

August 28 Elementary Open House 5-7 pm

September 3 First Day of School!

Preschool 3's and School Readiness 4's Parent Orientation September 3rd and 4th.

First Day of Preschool 3's and School Readiness 4's September 9th and 10th.