

Welcome Back To School!

Holdingford Elementary School Principal's Newsletter September 2019



Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! A huge Husker thank you and welcome back to school! We are off to a FANTASTIC start to the school year! Thank you for making Open House a family priority. I am Husker proud of a great start filled with energized and dedicated staff and the world's greatest children. I have missed the hustle, bustle, and happiness of a school day. Thank you for sharing your children with us, for trusting us, for letting us be part of your family and life! It is an honor and a privilege to be your elementary principal. Thank you for supporting our teaching staff and our school. Thank you for supporting your child's education!

Back to school expenses seem to be forever increasing. I want to thank each and every family for doing their best to get their children ready for a phenomenal year of learning. New shoes, backpacks, old friends, and new families dot the Husker Elementary landscape. Shining even brighter are your family's strong character and commitment to school safety. The positive energy, smiles, hugs, and hopes for a fantastic school year speak volumes for our fantastic school district. Husker Pride and Husker Happiness work hand in hand to create a positive school experience.

Once again our building shines with Husker Pride, our classrooms look beautiful, we are technologically competitive, and our school is filled with Minnesota's finest educators and support staff. A huge Husker thank you goes to our supportive families. Over 98% of our families attended Open House. Wow!

In order to fill this year with learning and laughter, your Holdingford Elementary family asks you to support us by keeping lines of communication open, assisting as needed with homework, and helping your child make appropriate choices, socially and academically. **For high quality and effective learning to take place, every child needs to be at school on time and ready to learn. Good attendance is a must at Holdingford Elementary. Simply stated, when parents and children choose home over school, our educational system of excellence is at risk for failure and creates huge gaps in learning.** Strong school attendance supports a lifetime of healthy habits and productivity.

This year, never be too busy to talk to your children about their school day and the friends they are making. Never be too busy to check your child's cell phone. Support us by helping out with homework and reading a good book nightly. Together, we make great things happen for children and create better tomorrows.

Holdingford Elementary Principal,

Jim Stang



Important Safety Notice:

For your child's safety, you must call the elementary office by 2:30 pm if you need to get a message to your child(ren) before the end of the day or when changing transportation plans. Without prior notice, written or phone call, all children will be expected to follow their routine transportation plan.



If you are visiting school and plan to go past the office to eat lunch with your child or visit your child's classroom, please make sure to have your drivers license with you. Ms. Christy, or other office staff, will swipe your driver's license to ensure all visitors are safe to enter school.



Free and Reduced Lunch Applications – Your Participation Helps ALL Students:

I encourage our Husker families to go online and look through the Free and Reduced application and information, even if you plan to pay the regular lunch prices. Holdingford School District has about 24% of our students qualifying for free/reduced lunch. This is much lower than other schools in the area and I am guessing there are families attending our school that would qualify and could use the financial assistance. Free and Reduced Lunch forms are available online at <http://www.isd738.org/freereduced-application.html>. If you are not able to access forms online, please feel to contact Melissa Anderson, at 320-746-4328, for paper forms and information.



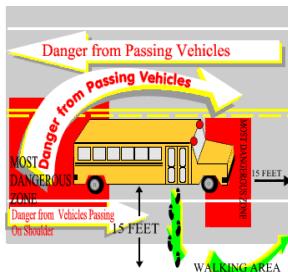
Calendar/Student Handbook

During Open House, each family should have received an Elementary Calendar in your child's green folder. Thank you PTA for providing the green Husker High Five take home folders. Please set aside some quiet time for your family to go over school expectations and rules. New this fall, our student handbook was included with your online registration forms. Thank you for your time, help, and support.



Special Thanks to Our OUTSTANDING PTA:

I'd like to commend our local PTA membership for the time, energy, and support given to help us prepare for our 2019-2020 school year and Open House. Our annual PTA fall fundraiser will be kicked off October 16th in the elementary gym. Money raised each fall goes to student-centered activities such as field trips, purchasing new technology for classrooms, and other child-centered causes. Thank you for supporting our staff and students. Your generosity and efforts mean the world to us! **Please step up...join up..and help out! Our PTA rocks! Membership forms can be found in the elementary office and at \$7 per membership it is an amazing Husker value!**



Busing:

As we start the school year, be sure to review the busing guidelines and expectations with your children. Remember, riding the bus is a privilege, not a right. Students are expected to follow the same behavioral standards while riding the bus, as are expected in their classroom and on school grounds. Thank you for your support.



Notes from our Preschool-6th Grade Social Worker, Carrie Cremers:

Hello all, my name is Carrie Cremers and I am so excited to be at Holdingford Elementary this school year. I will be the school social worker for the elementary working with preschool all the way to 6th grade. If you have questions or concerns regarding your children that are in 7th-12th grade, please feel free to reach out to Katie Ficker, who is our high school/middle school social worker for Holdingford this school year. Her contact information is 320-746-4495 and her email is katie.ficker@isd738.org

I graduated with a degree in sociology and then later got my masters in social work from St. Cloud State University. I am a licensed independent clinical social worker with three years of experience working at a charter school in the St. Cloud area. I have worked with children since I was sixteen and still continue to work with children when school is not in session. Kids are my passion and giving them the strategies and tools to succeed is why I became a school social worker.

If you would like your child to meet with me or have concerns about your child's social emotional needs, please feel free to contact me at anytime. My phone number is 320-746-4496 and my email is carrie.cremers@isd738.org. I work with students on social skills, friendship skills, self-regulation, anxiety, family changes, grief and loss, self-esteem, bullying issues, etc. I also would like to thank all the generous families who donated school supplies this school year. Your efforts are appreciated and our students are forever thankful.

2 TIPS FOR STARTING THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

- One of the most important things you can do to aid your child's success in school is to keep the lines of communication open between you, teachers, support staff and administrators. Sometimes you might want to say thanks, while other times you might need to process struggles the student is having at school or at home.
- If your student is struggling to get to school or seems anxious about school, send personal notes in the lunch box or book bag. Reinforce their ability to cope. Learning begins at home! Try modeling optimism and confidence for your child. Let your child know that it is natural to be a little nervous anytime you start something new, but he or she will be just fine once they become familiar with classmates, the teacher, and school routine.



Husker High Five Student Compact:

We are very excited to begin a new year at Holdingford Elementary and welcome a new class of Kindergarteners! With new students and returning students, it's always a good time of year to review our set of expectations that help keep our school safe and orderly.

You will soon see our Husker High Five student compact come home with your child. The compact includes a matrix guideline for parents to be informed of expected school wide behaviors. It is our hope that parents will help us teach and talk about being Ready, Respectful, and Responsible in our non-structured areas such as the hallway, cafeteria, playground, school bus, and restrooms. Thank you for your support.



Important Dates:

September 17th K-6 Picture Day

October 4th Open School 10 am Elementary Media Center. Please visit our school! Eat Lunch! Enjoy GREAT students and staff!!!!

October 10th ECFE Picture Day

October 16th PTA Fundraiser Kick Off

Fall Conferences October 14th and 15th. Please note early release time of 1:15 each day.



Save the Dates: Show your Husker Spirit! Homecoming Week is September 23-27!

Volleyball Home Thursday, September 26th vs Maple Lake

Football Home Friday, September 27th vs Maple Lake



Save the date for our Scholastic Book Fair October 7th – 15th. I love our school and our fall book fair!