



**Westview  
Elementary**

# The Bulldog Bulletin

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## Principal's Corner

Dear Westview Families,

Thank you for choosing Westview as the school for your child. We pride ourselves on creating an educational community of kindness, respect and engaged learning. This year will offer us some unique challenges as we have students attending in person learning on different days and some learning at home in the Digital Academy. In any model, we will begin by getting to know each other, establishing routines and procedures and beginning our first academic units of study in literacy and math and rotations in library, art, gym, and music. Staff have also been reaching out to parents to introduce themselves and share how the learning will look this year. We have many new staff to introduce you to in this first newsletter edition.



We are practicing new safety protocols and I have observed smiles behind **face coverings**, twinkling eyes, and sensed joy in being back at school. Yes, these are **unprecedented** times; we may need to **pivot** into other learning models during the year; we will become proficient in using **zoom** and knowing when to **mute**; we are learning to navigate a **pandemic** and use tools like **Seesaw** and **Schoology**. This will indeed be a **transformational** year with opportunities for us to learn essential skills, problem solve and find creative ways to communicate.

COVID-19 has highlighted that schools are vital to our society. We are committed to providing meaningful, connected experiences at Westview. Kids are **resilient**. Let's continue to practice **patience** and **kindness** as we journey through this year together.

In Unity,

Tami

## Revised 2020-21 School Year Calendar

### Start and End Dates

- Sept. 8-11 ..... Scheduled student-teacher connection and orientation
- Sept. 14 ..... First day of school
- June 8 ..... Last day of school (elementary)
- June 11 ..... Last day of school (middle and high)

**No-School Dates** ■ = No school for all students ○ = No school for some students

- Oct. 7 ..... Districtwide staff development for middle and elementary (*no school grades K-8*)
- Oct. 9 ..... Conferences for high schools (*no school grades 9-12*)
- Oct. 15-16 ..... State teachers' conference (*no school*)
- Nov. 4 ..... Districtwide staff development for high school (*no school 9-12*)
- Nov. 6 ..... Conferences for elementary and middle schools (*no school grades K-8*)
- Nov. 26-27 ..... Thanksgiving break (*no school*)
- Dec. 2 ..... Teachers workshop (*no school*)
- Dec. 4 ..... End of Trimester 1
- Dec. 23-Jan. 1 ..... Winter break (*no school*)
- Jan. 13 ..... Districtwide staff development for high school (*no school grades 9-12*)
- Jan. 18 ..... Martin Luther King Day (*no school*)
- Jan. 20 ..... Districtwide staff development day (*no school grades K-8*)
- Jan. 22 ..... Conferences for high schools (*no school grades 9-12*)
- Feb. 10 ..... Teachers workshop for high school (*no school grades 9-12*)
- Feb. 12 ..... Conferences for elementary and middle schools (*no school grades K-8*)
- Feb. 15 ..... Presidents' Day (*no school*)
- Mar. 10 ..... Teachers workshop (*no school*)
- Mar. 12 ..... End of Trimester 2
- Mar. 22-26 ..... Spring break (*no school grades K-12*)
- April 21 ..... Districtwide staff development
- May 28 ..... Conferences for middle schools (*no school grades 6-8*)
- May 31 ..... Memorial Day (*no school*)



## Welcome New Staff

To get to know the new Westview Elementary staff, the Bulldog Bulletin has asked them to respond to the following questions:

1. Three words to describe you:
2. What are some of your favorite things?
3. What would you like the Bulldog community to know about you?
4. What is one fun fact that people would be surprised to hear about you?

### Aspen Lair, Kindergarten

1. Loud, energetic, outgoing
2. My dogs, shopping and nature!
3. That I am SO excited to be a Bulldog and work alongside the staff and students.
4. I grew up on 80 acres in Lakeville!



### Lauren Schweich, Kindergarten

1. Enthusiastic, caring, organized
2. Working with kids, my family and friends, my dog, trying new restaurants and being outside.
3. I am so excited to join the Westview community! I am a passionate educator that cares deeply about my students and their growth as learners and individuals. I know I am joining a school community that feels the same way! I spent my high school years growing up in Apple Valley and am so happy to be "home" again.
4. I'm an identical twin! My sister Mary is one minute older than me.



### Sarah Singleton, Kindergarten

1. Tall, love to laugh, adventurous
2. Sunshine, chocolate and Target
3. I have taught for the last 10 years in Burnsville, and am excited to be a WV Bulldog this year.
4. I drove school bus in college.



### Felicia Holbrook, First Grade

1. Curious, friendly, caring
2. First grader enthusiasm, animals, books
3. I am so excited to be here!
4. You would never know by how much I love animals now, but I was very afraid of dogs as a kid.



### Alison Rossow, Third Grade

1. Passionate, diligent, expressive
2. St. Croix River, sunrises, my front stoop and cheesecake.
3. I live three miles away from school; I have a great bulldog poster for my (digital) classroom; and I really love third grade.
4. I have learned from a professional manure applicators to publish books for farmers.





## Welcome New Staff



See page two for the questions asked.

### Courtney Spang, Third Grade

1. Outgoing, compassionate, determined
2. Running, Yoga, family, friends, dark chocolate
3. I student taught at Westview and could not be more excited to be back as a third grade teacher. Outside of school I love to spend time with my family and teach group fitness classes at Lifetime Fitness. I got a puppy in March, named Birdie!
4. I am getting married this October and will be changing my name to Courtney Crist.



### Jaime Mobilia, CIP

1. Funny, driven, competitive
2. Hanging out with friends and family, working out and being outside.
3. I am from Ely, MN
4. I have my principal license and am working towards my director of special education license.



### Emily Eich, Resource

1. Patient, kind, organized
2. Starbucks, my family, WESTVIEW!
3. I am so excited to be back working at Westview
4. I have eight month old twins!



### Katrina Villella, Nurse

1. Compassionate, honest, organized
2. I enjoy baking and exploring new hiking trails with my family
3. I am just a phone call or email away. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. I am here to support and help your family navigate through this year!
4. I used to perform show water-skiing with the Twin Cities River Rats on the Mississippi River in Minneapolis.



### Lizabeth Kyser

1. Positive, active, funny
2. Biking, spending time outdoors with my family, reading
3. I am new to 196 but I have taught Reading Recovery in the past. I have also taught EL and I have a passion for equitable teaching practices.
4. I have only met one other Lizabeth in my life. She was a gate agent at the airport and I was the first Lizabeth she'd met, too!





## Welcome New Staff



See page two for the questions asked.

### Marta Karstedt, Clerk

1. Patient, kind, artistic
2. Time with family, reading, nature, children
3. I am very excited to be here we just moved from Wisconsin. I knew immediately coming into the school that it had a great vibe, getting to meet the staff and teachers the last couple of days has reaffirmed my initial impression.
4. We have hosted eight different exchange students from France, Spain and China.



### Carla Sinz, 4th Grade

1. Fun, organized, loquacious
2. Working out, being with my friends and family, baking, having fun!
3. I have been teaching 4th grade and working with teachers on their professional development in ISD 196 for 20 years. I am married and we have two adorable little girls.
4. I have never had a bloody nose.



### Sara Byrne, PARA

1. Happy, patient, friendly
2. Animals, music, listening to podcasts
3. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone.
4. I helped sub in the cafeteria at Westview.



## School Supply Kit Update

This year, PTO offered a new option for purchasing school supplies through the company **1st Day School Supplies**. When we committed to them, no one knew that this pandemic would be coming, that kids would be returning late, that assessments would look so different, and that needs in our classrooms and at home might change. Despite all this, **1st Day School Supplies** met and exceeded our expectations. Supplies were delivered at assessments as promised, and even with changing lines of delivery and availability for some of the items (like disinfecting wipes and facial tissue) the needs were met. Certainly many parents who didn't use **1st Day School Supplies** may have had a harder time finding wipes, for example. For parents who opted in to this program, it meant that you didn't have to worry about sourcing these supplies while doing everything else that is necessary to get ready to go back to school – either hybrid or distance learning. You could count on the specific things requested by the teachers being delivered and ready to use! The average cost for a box of supplies was approximately \$45, although obviously varied by grade. Ordering was online and easy – no searching for the school lists, no shipping costs, no driving all over to multiple stores. The time and energy saved for parents was great, and the cost was still very reasonable. There was even an option to order additional items, like t-shirts or backpacks, to even further streamline the process. We had almost 100 kids from our population of approximately 400 use the service. Next year, we hope to be back to a more “normal” school year and with that, we hope to see use of this program grow!



## PTO Pit Stop



*Events, Reminders & Information about the Westview PTO*

### Info about PTO

Westview PTO is committed to providing the best educational and social experience for students and their families. The PTO exists to provide volunteer services and to raise funds that help support students' educational efforts. As a Westview parent or guardian, you are already part of our PTO!

#### Next meeting date:

Sept. 21; 6-7 p.m.

The first meeting may be in-person or via Zoom. Make sure to check Facebook and email for updates.

**Spirit Wear**—Look for more info mid-Sept. for online ordering!

### Meet Your New PTO Officers

Volunteers make the PTO possible, and our officers are honored to serve alongside Westview's dedicated families and staff to make 2020-2021 pawsitively amazing. Say hi when you see them around!

**Michelle Doepke** (President)  
**Sara Dziuk** (Vice President)  
**Erica Eggers** (Treasurer)  
**Jackie Siedel** (Secretary)

### Follow PTO on Social Media

#### Follow the PTO on Social Media

Staying informed is more important than ever! The PTO is here to keep you updated on what's going on at Westview.

Check out the ways you can stay in the loop:



Follow us on Instagram  
[@westviewmnpto](#)



"Like" our Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/westviewmnpto](http://www.facebook.com/westviewmnpto)



Sign up for text alerts through Remind by texting  
**@377gcd to 81010**



Reach us by email at  
[westviewmnpto@gmail.com](mailto:westviewmnpto@gmail.com)

### Box Tops

Westview benefits from your box tops, and now it's going digital! After shopping, all you need to do is scan your receipt within 14 days. Download the app first and select Westview Elementary as your recipient. You also get to see how much you've donated throughout the year!



### Crayon & Marker Recycling Program

#### Our Recycling Program Marches On!

We are continuing our sustainability efforts with our crayon, marker and plastic bag recycling program in the new school year!

#### What can be recycled?

Broken and unusable **crayons**, **markers** (art markers, dry erase markers, and highlighters), and **plastic bags** can be sent with your child to school to recycle.

#### Can we participate if we opted into Digital Academy?

If you are a virtual learner, you can still contribute to our plastic bag recycling program by weighing your bags before you drop them off at Target, Cub Foods, or any other store accepting recyclable plastic. Just drop a message to [westviewmnpto@gmail.com](mailto:westviewmnpto@gmail.com) to let them know how much your plastic weighed so we can include it in our school count.

Thank you for supporting sustainability with our Bulldogs!



Westview  
Elementary

# Bulldog S.T.R.O.N.G.

Self-control, Teamwork, Respect, Ownership, Noble Actions & Gratitude

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## Bulldog Paw Prints

*Helpful Tips, Reminders & Information about the Westview School Community*

### Contact Info Changes

Call the office or email [Sue.Bergemann@district196.org](mailto:Sue.Bergemann@district196.org) or [Lisa.Kissell@district196.org](mailto:Lisa.Kissell@district196.org) with updates to your phone numbers, emails or addresses throughout the year. It is very important we have the latest information for everyone.

### Campus Portal

If you have not received your Campus Portal access key, given out at assessment days, stop in or call the office to obtain it. It will enable you to follow your child's attendance, update your emergency contact information, as well as your own, and once it's complete you can set up fee pay to pay your child's lunch online. Please visit the Westview website: <http://www.district196.org/wv> and look under the "Resources" tab. Click "For Parents." This will bring you to the "For Parents" page that will allow you to access "Campus Portal Login" under "Connected Parents."



### Follow WV on Facebook

Want to keep up to date on many things Westview? Be sure to like the Westview Elementary Bulldogs



Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/wvbulldogs>.

Since there will not be a school calendar this year, you will want to check either our Facebook page, this bulletin and our website at [www.district196.org/wv](http://www.district196.org/wv) for all the upcoming important dates.

### Reporting Absences

Be sure to email [wv.attendance@district196.org](mailto:wv.attendance@district196.org) or call 952-431-8380 to report your child's absence.

If an absence is not called in, it is considered unexcused.

It is important to alert the school if your child is home with a communicable disease. This would include COVID-19, strep, pertussis, influenza, pink eye, chicken pox, lice, scabies or fifth's disease.

### 2020 Important Dates

- **Sept. 8-11**  
Scheduled student-teacher connection and orientation
- **Sept. 14**  
First day of school
- **Oct. 7**  
No school
- **Oct. 15-16**  
No school
- **Nov. 6**  
Conferences, no school
- **Nov. 26-27**  
Thanksgiving break, no school
- **Dec. 2**  
No school
- **Dec. 4**  
End of Trimester 1
- **December 23-Jan. 1**  
Winter break, no school

### Student Directory Info

New to this school year, the student directory will be specific to grade level. Each student will receive a free copy of their specific grade level student directory provided by the Westview PTO. If you do not want your student/s information included, please complete the 2020-21 Student Directory Opt-Out Form and turn into your teacher by Friday, October 2nd.



## Community Connections

*Connecting the Bulldog Community, One Paw at a time!*

### NEW Student Drop-Off & Pick-Up Area

#### **NEW Student drop off and pick up information for parents and busses this year!**

For safety and social distancing purposes, we are implementing a new drop off and pick up system for students who ride district school busses, daycare vans or arrive in a vehicle.

 **Parent pick up and drop off will be IN FRONT of the school** (formerly bus area). Parents need to be parked along the yellow curb to load or unload children. Students will enter the main front doors, #1. If students arrive before 9:10, they will stand on the sidewalk using 6 ft safe spacing. After school, students will stand in family groups. Please do not pull ahead to cut into the line. Be patient and pull forward as the line moves. As you exit the parking lot, there will be a designated right turn lane and a straight/left turn lane. These will be painted onto the blacktop.

 **BIG busses will park and load and unload in the parking lane on Garden View.** Continued in next column...

Students will enter/exit door #3 (music/gym hallway doors).

 **LITTLE busses and daycare vans will drop off and pick up in the BACK area** (formerly parent drop off/pick up area) and enter/exit through the cafeteria door, #7.

**SACC** drop off and pick up will continue to be at the back area and enter through the cafeteria door.

### Westview Garden Update

The Westview Victory Garden had a great season and produced many fresh vegetables for our Bulldog community to enjoy. The garden started as many small seeds in March and it was fun to watch them sprout and grow all summer long. A special thanks to Lorinda Miller, Westview's kitchen manager, for taking over the responsibilities of getting the garden up and running this summer! She coordinated the volunteers and communicated with everyone all summer long. Another huge thank you to all the families who volunteered a week of their summer to tend to the garden, weed, and water. We wouldn't have had vegetables without everyone's help. Look for more communication next spring if you would like to get involved and help with the garden in the summer of 2021!

### Summer Reading Program in Review

This past summer over 70 Westview families participated in a Summer Reading Program, where children could select enrichment books at their current reading level to read and return the following week. This program was a huge success with much positive feedback as seen below. Thanks to the many parent and staff volunteers who kept us Bulldog STRONG all summer long.

*"Program was great!!! My kids enjoyed it."*

*"I really appreciated this opportunity for my son, especially with everything else closed down. He really enjoyed getting new books every week."*

*"I just wanted to say thank you (to all involved) for providing this opportunity this summer. It's been so helpful for my kids. I feel like they have not lost their reading skills as they otherwise may have. We look forward to participating again next year."*

*"As a volunteer I so enjoyed the excitement in the kids and the thankful, dedicated parents who attended week after week."*



## Specialists Space



*Welcome back from the Westview Specialist Team!*

### Art with Mr. Gorton

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! I can't wait to see everyone again and meet some of you for the first time! Here are some things to help give you a better idea about art this year.



### Library Media with Mrs. Theirl

Welcome back, Bulldogs! I can't wait to see you again, share some new great books and lots of wonderful stories with you! Here's what you can expect your Library Media class to look like.



This year, we CAN'T:	...BUT we CAN:
Sit next to our classmates at tables	Still work together in the art room
Use all the art supplies we normally use (Example: no scented markers)	Work with a lot of other fun art supplies
Gather together at resources in the room (Examples: choice shelf, sink, drying rack, pencil sharpener)	Use those resources one at a time
Clean-up as quickly as usual. We will likely need more time to properly clean-up our projects	Have a lot of class time for making art
Do all the same kinds of projects in the same ways	Still make cool art projects!

This year, we CAN'T:	...BUT we CAN:
All sit next to each other on the colored rug for story time or media/iPad lessons	Still have story time while sitting in new spots in the library Still use our iPads for media lessons
Share all of the items from the Maker Space or work on building with each other	Still use some items from the Maker Space and work on building individually
Sit inside the Book Forest and read aloud to each other	Sit in other spots around the library and read to ourselves
Check-out books in exactly the same way we have before	Check-out books and resources in a new way and still be able to take them home to enjoy!



## Specialists Space



*Welcome back from the Westview Specialist Team!*

### Music with Ms. Bush

I am so excited to be with you in the music room again! Some things will look the same and some will be different. Looking forward to our time together.



### Physical Education with Mrs. Buck

Welcome back, Bulldogs! I am so excited to be working in person with you this year. Here's what you can expect P.E. to look like.



This year, we CAN'T:	...BUT we CAN:
🎵 Sing in the music classroom	🎵 Hum, use singing hand signs, and develop inner hearing 🎵 Share singing through recordings and videos
🎵 Hold hands for dances or games	🎵 Lock eyes and mirror movements to make connections with classmates
🎵 Play circle games	🎵 Do independent movement activities and body percussion
🎵 Share instruments and materials	🎵 Use one instrument individually that can be disinfected
🎵 Have concerts	🎵 Record music activities to show families what we learned in class
🎵 Go on Field Trips	🎵 Utilize technology to bring guests into our classes
	🎵 Follow and create listening maps
	🎵 Located and read notes on the staff
	🎵 Compose music

This year, we CAN'T:	...BUT we CAN:
🚲 Participate in PE class the way we have always done it and the way we are used to doing it.	🚲 Have PE outside on nice days. 🚲 Use the gym for PE. 🚲 Challenge ourselves to work hard and do our very best.
🚲 Share equipment. (no stations, playing catch, parachute, etc.)	🚲 Use equipment to learn and practice our skills individually
🚲 Play games or sports where we touch each other or get too close. (no tag, no partner or team activities)	🚲 Exercise, dance and workout in our own spaces. Move in our own pathways for jogging, skipping, dribbling, etc.
🚲 Give high fives or fist bumps, hold hands or hug each other.	🚲 Use words to compliment and encourage each other.
🚲 Sing along to music being played in the gym.	🚲 Listen to music in the gym. It motivates us to work hard.
🚲 Get drinks in the hallway.	🚲 Bring water bottles when we are outside.
🚲 Use the playground when other classes	🚲 Be active at home with our family.