



Parent News from Armstrong Elementary

Main: 651-425-4100

Attendance: 651-425-4106

Website: aes.sowashco.org

School hours: 8:40 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.

October 28, 2021

Parent/Teacher Fall Conferences

*This is for Knd through Grade 5 conferences

Parent/Teacher fall conferences are set for **Monday, November 1st from 3:30 - 7:45 pm AND Thursday, November 4th from 3:30 - 7:30 pm.** **PLEASE NOTE: They will look a little different this year. We have divided each of the days in half for either IN-PERSON or VIRTUAL conferences.** You will see a VIRTUAL and IN-PERSON conference for each teacher and may choose whichever works best for you.

- Monday, November 1, 3:30-5:30 – Virtual Conference appts
- Monday, November 1, 6:00-7:45 – In-Person Conference appts
- Thursday, November 4, 3:30-5:30 – In-Person Conference appts
- Thursday, November 4, 6:00-7:30 – Virtual Conference appts

****If you choose a VIRTUAL conference, your child's teacher will send you a link to the online conference.**

****If all in-person times are full for your child's teacher and you wish to do an in-person conference, please contact your child's teacher.**

Instructions are below. Please click on the following link to get to online conference signup at PTCFast.com http://www.ptcfast.com/schools/Armstrong_Elementary

Call Anne in the office at 651-425-4101 if you have any questions or need help signing up.

****Fall Conferences November 1st and November 4th Scheduling Information****

Armstrong Elementary uses an online conference scheduler to schedule conferences. Directions are provided below. Registration will be available starting today.

*For those families who don't have internet you can schedule your conferences with your classroom teacher/s or with Anne Henseler at 651-425-4101 in the office.

- To access the online scheduler go to www.ptcfast.com/schools/Armstrong_Elementary (note that there is an underscore between Armstrong_Elementary)
1. Click on the teacher/s you need to set up conference/s with and then click submit (**be sure to choose either VIRTUAL or IN-PERSON for your child's teacher**)
 2. If you are only scheduling for one student your next screen will have you type in your information for that student.
 3. If you have more than one student at Armstrong you will have a few more questions to answer before you enter your student's information.
 4. Once that is submitted the next screen will read-**Thank you for registering. Please check your email at the address you provided. You will find an email with the subject header "Select Date/Time for Teacher**

Conference Now". Just press the link in the email and you will be able to pick a time slot for the conference.

- If you have not received that follow-up email within about an hour we suggest you check your spam filter to see if it has put the email in a folder (typically called JUNK or SPAM.) Please leave at least 15 minutes between your student's conferences. Thank you for registering.

Book Fair

It's Book Fair time!! The Fall Book Fair will run from October 27th until November 5th. You can either shop the fair online during this time or send payment with your student to shop the fair. Each purchase made during the book fair directly benefits our students and helps Armstrong purchase books for our school!

Students will make wish lists when they visit the fair and bring those wish lists home. You can either send in money or create an eWallet if you want your child to purchase books from the fair.

Here's the link to shop the book fair online: <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/armstrongrockets>

Here's the link for directions on how to set up an eWallet:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/articles/ewallet.html>

We are so excited to have the fair back at Armstrong and get some great books in the hands of our students!

Any questions can be directed to Amber Sorenson, PTO President, at asorenso1@sowashco.org.

Chipotle Night

Armstrong Elementary has a Chipotle Night on Wednesday, November 17. Pick out your favorite burrito or bowl and a percent of your purchase goes to support our great school! Just make sure you say Armstrong at the checkout or show the flyer attached to this email. All orders made in person at the Cottage Grove location or an online order placed and picked up between 4:00-8:00pm is included in the fundraiser. If you order online, use the code **THMHZV7** when you check out. Have a burritoful day!

Yearbooks For Sale

Armstrong 2021-22 yearbooks are now on sale at the Josten's website listed below. Now through 10/29/21 the cost is \$15 per yearbook. After 10/29 the price will go to \$16. If you purchase one before 10/29/21 you can save \$1.00! Yearbooks will arrive in May 2022.

To order: <http://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A09870279>

Shout Outs

Shout Outs will return next week!

VOTE November 2, 2021 or early voting started Sept. 17

This November, South Washington County Schools (SoWashCo Schools) will ask voters two questions to consider a school funding increase.

The first ballot question asks voters to consider an increase to the current operating levies. If approved, the ballot would revoke operating levies from 2015 and 2017 and combine into one operating levy to provide funding for classrooms, instruction and other school operating costs.

The second ballot question asks voters to consider an increase to the capital projects levy for technology. This levy will fund improved instructional technology and infrastructure, support staffing, and maintenance and support for student and staff devices.

More information is available by visiting www.sowashco.org/vote2021

Student Device Protection

The Department of Technology has seen an increase in damaged student devices. To avoid unexpected costs, families can **purchase an optional device protection plan until Oct. 31, 2021. Families who do not purchase a device protection plan are responsible for the full cost of device repair or replacement.** The cost for the optional plan is \$20 annually per device. [View coverage rates](#). The plan protects district-issued devices from accidental damage from fire, flood, natural disasters, or power surges; and theft (with a filed police report).

Families who qualify for federal educational benefits, such as [free and reduced-price meals](#), will also be eligible for reduced pricing (\$10 annually per device) or free coverage. Families can sign up and pay for the device protection plan through the SmartSchoolK12 website.

- [Learn more about the device protection plan](#)
- [Instructions for paying fees through SmartSchoolK12](#)

Please remind your child to handle their school-issued device with care. Due to limited devices and supply chain shortages, repairs may take longer than usual. If you have any issues signing up and paying for the device protection plan, please contact fees@sowashco.org.

Free Covid Testing Kits for Students

Students are able to get a Free Vault Covid-19 Saliva Test Kit from the school nurses. **You must call the health office at 425-4102 to request a test and only one test can be sent at a time.** It needs to be returned the week you request it.

How Vault COVID-19 Testing Works:

- Pick up a Vault COVID-19 test at no cost from the school's health office
- Create a Vault account with a username and password
- Complete the COVID-19 test **at home with help from Vault test supervisors over Zoom**
 - Students under 18 will need a parent or legal guardian present at the time of the test to provide consent
 - The test needs to be done with Zoom on Wednesday night or Thursday morning
- Seal the sample tube and place it in the biohazard bag
- Bring completed and sealed tests to the school's health office before 1pm on designated collection days
- Staff at school **cannot** help students administer the test. **The test must be completed and sealed prior to bringing it into a school building**

Upcoming Vault COVID-19 Test Collection Days:

- Thursday, Nov. 4

The test kits from the school are only for student use and have to be sent in on the designated Thursdays. You can't mail these back on a different day.

If you would like free family Covid-19 Test at Home kits from the Minnesota Department of Health, you can request them to be sent directly to your house and you drop completed tests off at a UPS location. These kits are turned in on your own and can't be accepted by the school. [COVID-19 Test at Home](#). * They look the same but are coded differently so be careful not to mix them up.

Upcoming Events

- **Friday, October 29, 2021** – **Wear Orange** for “ **Orange You Glad You Go to Armstrong**” day
- **Monday, November 1, 2021** – Fall Conferences, 3:30-7:45 p.m. (by appt only)
- **Tuesday, November 2, 2021** – **NO SCHOOL, Election Day**
- **Thursday, November 4, 2021** – Fall Conferences, 3:30-7:30 p.m. (by appt only)
- **Tuesday, November 9, 2021** – PTO Meeting, AES Media Center, 3:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, November 10, 2021** – Wendy's Night, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, November 17, 2021** – Chipotle Fundraiser Night, CG Chipotle, 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, December 8, 2021** – Wendy's Night, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, December 14, 2021** – PTO Meeting, AES Media Center, 3:30 p.m.
- **December 22, 2021 – December 31, 2021** – **NO SCHOOL, Winter Break**
- **Monday, January 3, 2022** – School Resumes