

The Woodland **WORD**

THE NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT WOODLAND DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

2021-22 School Year • Fall Issue 2
October, 2021

From Principal Natalie Adair

2021-22 school year

We have cruised on into the 2021-2022 school year with fun!



Remember Fall Break - No School October 11 - October 15, 2021

Woodland School Office Hours and Contact Information:

Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30pm Monday - Thursday

8:00 am - 3:30 pm - Friday

Woodland Main Office Phone Number: 810-455-1011

North Secretary: Michelle Beeler

Secretary to the Principal: Kelley Yeager

Principal: Natalie Adair

Assistant Principal: Brian Jex

Dean Transportation Phone Number: 810-364-7757





October Happenings at Woodland

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 - Fall Harvest 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm (in front of Woodland School)

Wednesday, October 6, 2021 - Spirit Day - Hat Day

Wednesday, October 6, 2021 - All Children Exercise Simultaneously Day (ACES) and Walk to School Day (W2SD) - 9:40 am in front of Woodland School

Monday, October 11, 2021 - Friday, October 15, 2021 - No School - Fall Break

Monday, October 25 - Friday, October 29, 2021 - Spooktacular Spirit Week

Friday, October 29, 2021 - Halloween Celebration - During the School Day (Students Only)

Friday, October 29, 2021 - Monster Mayhem 6:00 pm - (More Details to Come)

ACES and W2SD - October 6, 2021:

Woodland will be participating in the Michigan Fitness Foundation All Children Exercise Simultaneously (ACES) and Walk to School Day (W2SD) day on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 9:40 am. Classrooms will choose between two walking paths on the RESA school grounds. After participating in the walk to school event, all classes will meet outside in front of Woodland for ACES day. At approximately 10:15 am all classrooms will be given a specific location out front socially distanced and will participate simultaneously together for approximately 20 minutes of exercise. Please dress your student in comfortable clothing for exercise and being outside. In addition we are making it a spirit day where hats can be worn, show us your favorite hat!

Spooktacular Spirit Week October 25 - October 29, 2021

Monday, October 25, 2021 - Orange and Black Day

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - Tacky Tuesday

Wednesday, October 27, 2021 - Witchy Wednesday

Thursday, October 28, 2021 - Michigan vs. Michigan State

Friday, October 29, 2021 - Costume/Character Day



Parent Representatives Needed for Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

The parent advisory committee of St. Clair County, is a group of parents of students with disabilities who come together for the purpose of representing individual school districts within St. Clair County. As parents of the advisory committee, they stay informed of the current county plan changes and current trends in special education within the county and state. Parents connect and support each other, encourage empowerment, and provide opportunities to educate through sharing innovative and creative ideas. Parents serve as a resource and assist other parents in understanding special education rules and regulations, the IEP process and procedural safeguards. PAC meetings are held monthly on Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm. If you are interested in becoming one of the advisory parents for Woodland, please contact Natalie Adair, principal. Parents are also encouraged to attend the monthly meeting without becoming the school representative. Any questions please feel free to contact Natalie Adair, principal (810-455-1011).

In The Event of a School Closure

School closures are announced on the Remind System, news media sources (exp. Channel 4, WPHM 1380), and on our Woodland Facebook page. If you are not registered with the Remind system, please call the office and Michelle Beeler will assist you in getting signed up for the Remind system (810) 455-1011. In addition, we will be using school messenger for future school closure announcements, more details will be forthcoming.

Contacting Woodland and Reporting an Absence

If you have general questions please call the school office directly at (810) 455-1011. For questions regarding bus transportation or to report an absence concerning transportation, call the transportation department at (810) 364-7757. If your child is not transported to school via bus transportation please report the student absence by calling the school office.

Parent Mentors Available

If you are a new Woodland parent or a parent just wanting more information or guidance, we would be happy to connect you with a “parent mentor” who can help answer your questions and share their experiences and knowledge with you. Please call principal Natalie Adair at (810) 455-1011 for further information.

Look for Woodland News on our Facebook Page



Woodland is on social media! If you haven't already, please search for “Woodland Developmental Center” on Facebook and like our page. We post pictures, reminders, notifications, and share other important information on this page. We would love it if you would “like” and “share” our posts so more people in our community can see how truly amazing our students and staff are. Many Woodland items are also posted on the “St. Clair County RESA” Facebook page, so please look for that, too!

COVID-19 Updates

This letter was sent home on Friday, October 1, 2021. Wanted to be sure everyone had a copy, so we reprinted it in the newsletter.



at St. Clair County RESA
Natalie Adair - Principal

499 Range Road, PO Box 1500
Marysville, MI 48040
(810) 455-1011 • Fax (810) 364-3251

Friday, October 1, 2021

Dear Woodland Families and Staff,

I hope that you all have had a successful start to the school year. Unfortunately, we were not able to move into a new year free of the COVID-19 virus. With the rate at which information and changes continue to come out from the State, CDC and Health Department we feel it is important to update you on the current safety measures at Woodland.

1. Staff and students, who are medically able, continue to mask on buses and within the Woodland building. Work based learning students will continue masking at the work site.
2. Hand washing and masking are taught to our students daily.
3. Frequent cleaning and sanitizing protocols continue at the building throughout the day and after students have left the building.
4. We have continued to Cohort group students with some loosening of restrictions in this area as we have started utilizing the cafeteria and playgrounds, again with reduced numbers of students.
5. Visitation to the building continues to be limited to IEP Meetings and business related needs.
6. IEP related field trips/work based learning are the only trips permitted at this time.
7. Woodland has added a school nurse and a substituting nurse to support the building needs.

In addition to the items mentioned above, we continue to follow isolation precautions identified by the St. Clair County Health Department for students who test positive for COVID -19. This includes isolation of the student from school for a 10 day minimum based on symptoms and date of contact. Contact tracing with the St. Clair County Health Department and follow up by one of our school nurses.

With the recent confusion related to quarantining and the change in county orders, we feel it is important to clarify with you that we **will** continue to follow quarantine procedures outlined by the St. Clair County Health Department and the CDC.

Please understand that our goal is to provide the safest and healthiest learning environment for our students and staff members. We recognize the fragile nature and diverse needs of our student population and want to provide the necessary structures to support them.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school office at 810-455-1011.

Have a great weekend,

Natalie Adair - Principal

Tips for Making Halloween Disability-Friendly

Author: Jordyn Imhoff *October 31, 2019 1:08 PM*

Read through these tips (and tricks!) for ways to take some of the scary out of the holiday for children with special needs.



Halloween is usually an exciting time for kids, but for those with special needs, like physical disabilities, sensory difficulties or food allergies, the popular holiday may feel more challenging than celebratory.

Experiences like trick-or-treating or attending Halloween parties are ones' children with these challenges may miss out on due to a lack of special accommodations or a fear of being singled out. But being able to participate in these festivities allows kids to feel more connected with friends at school.

“It gives them something to talk about with their peers,” says Susie Steele, a pediatric [physical therapist](#) at [Michigan Medicine](#). “It lets them be able to do their most important job as kids: play and have fun!”

[SEE ALSO: More Merry than Scary: 11 Halloween Safety Tips for Parents](#)

Even nonsocial events, like searching for Halloween costumes, can be disheartening for a child with a physical handicap.

Steele and Camron Moorehead, a pediatric [occupational therapist](#) at Michigan Medicine, offer parents tips on how to help their kid and others enjoy all the holiday has to offer.

Picking costumes

Whether buying or designing a costume, Steele and Moorehead say to keep these suggestions in mind:

- **Let the child's interest be your guide.** Kids love to dress up like their favorite character, says Steele. If your child is excited about their costume, it'll show and the experience will be more enjoyable for them.
- **Get creative.** If your child uses a walker or wheelchair, try to find a way to incorporate it into the costume. This also allows your child to have the necessary support to get around while trick-or-treating.
- **Minimize any risks.** Moorehead says to avoid anything on a costume that could limit a child's mobility, obstruct their vision or cause anxiety. Not only could this cause them to trip and fall, but for children with sensory difficulties, an over-involved costume or certain textures of clothing can distract from all the fun.

Preparing for Halloween night

“While parents of a child with a disability might already be well aware of their child's triggers, it's best to prepare for the worst case scenario and go into the Halloween season proactively setting them up for the most success”, says Moorehead.

- **Trial run.** If you're the parent of a child with a disability, Moorehead and Steele recommend reviewing the route in advance. Go to a neighbor's house and practice trick-or-treating with your child before the big day. This can be especially beneficial to children who are sensitive to new situations or environments. When it's time for the real deal, stick to neighborhoods that you're both familiar with and areas that are well-lit at night.
- **Take advantage of community-based activities.** Does your town host a spooky arts and crafts event? Or organize a trunk-or-treating affair? Indoor events, or events put on during the day, could feel like a safer, more welcoming option that allows children with a handicap to still enjoy all the excitement.
- **Avoid crowded areas.** They can be overwhelming or distracting for children with certain disabilities. Big groups can also make crossing the street or going up and down curbs more dangerous.
- **Take breaks.** All that walking can be tiring! To check in how everyone is feeling, allow time to rest by offering a candy break to your kids during your trick-or-treating journey.

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Ways for everyone to be inclusive

Maybe you don't have a child with a disability, but you plan on passing out treats. When expecting trick-or-treaters there are simple ways you can better accommodate everyone involved in the fun:

- **Sit at the end of your driveway.** If your house has stairs or you have a steep driveway, it may be challenging for some kids to knock on your door. Sitting closer to the road doesn't only help those on crutches or in a wheelchair, but it can also feel more inviting to an anxious trick-or-treater.
- **Keep on outdoor lights.** Cracks or bumps in the sidewalk can make navigating a path especially tricky. Bright lights can help.
- **Describe the candy you give out.** If you notice a child is blind or has limited vision, describe the types of candy you're offering and let them make a choice.
- **Give extra time.** It can be difficult for children with special needs to reach quickly or accurately for a piece of candy, especially with other trick-or-treaters in the mix. Try not rush anyone through the candy picking process.
- **Offer non-edible treats.** Remember that some children are limited in what they can eat or how they eat. Stickers, bubbles or glow sticks can be a great substitute for candy!
- **Be mindful of your decorations.** Children with special needs may have a heightened sensitivity to loud noises, bright lights or unexpected sounds. Minimizing or turning off spooky decorations can reduce the chances of startling them.
- **Try not to judge.** Moorehead and Steele explain that some children may not tolerate certain textures of clothing well, so they could not be wearing a costume. That doesn't mean they should miss out on the fun! Also keep in mind that some children may not be able to say the traditional "trick-or-treat" phrase because of an anxiety or being nonverbal.

"It's important to be aware of kids with disabilities because if there are ways we can help make them feel more included, it gives them a sense of normality and acceptance they don't always get to experience," says Moorehead.