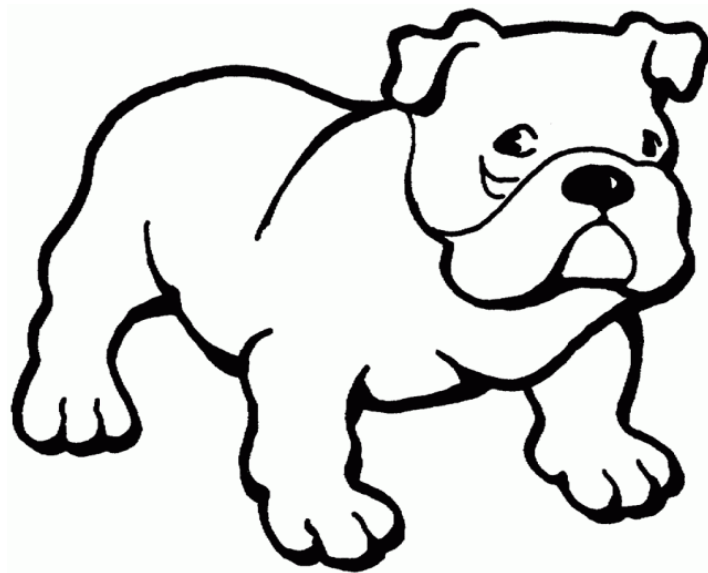


Westview Elementary  
We are  
**BULLDOG STRONG!**



*Your guide to everything you  
need to know about Westview!*

# Welcome to Westview!

We are so happy to have your family join our Westview community! While you can find many of these topics in our student calendar and on our website, our hope is that this guide will provide a peek at the ins and outs of Westview, helping to make this an exciting and successful transition.

We truly believe that the education of each child is a partnership between our school and your family. We look forward to working together to celebrate your child's successes.

## Helpful Phone Numbers

Westview Main Office	952-431-8380
Westview Fax Number	952-431-8338
School Nurse	952-431-8383
Social Worker	952-431-8386
Transportation	651-423-7685
YMCA After School Care (SACC)	612-230-9622



# Before School Begins in September

If you have an incoming kindergarten student, kindergarten registration happens in early February. Registration dates and information will be mailed to your home in December. If you are registering a 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grader or registering a student after the registration time in February just stop by the school office for registration paperwork, or you can go to [www.district196.org/enroll](http://www.district196.org/enroll) to start the process of registering your child.

Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students registering over the summer or returning students will receive a letter from the school in early August with your child's classroom placement information, information about the upcoming school year, and assessment dates, and how to sign up for a time slot.

## Assessment Days Are Important

Assessment days will be held August 30/31 from 8-8. In your classroom placement letter, you will be asked to sign your child up for an assessment time. The 45 -minute assessment allows our teachers to meet your child and assess where they are in their learning. While your child is being assessed, parents are invited down to the school cafeteria to fill out necessary paper work, volunteer for PTO activities and more.

If you do not have access to a computer to set up your child's assessment time, contact the school office at 952-431-8380 and they will be happy to schedule a time for you. If you are unable to make the assessment days, contact the school as well.

## School Supplies

A copy of our [school supply list](#) will be included in your classroom placement information and can be found on our web site at the beginning of the school year. Please refer to the grade level supply list to know what is required for your child's grade. Some families may have opted to order a tool box kit through the school during the past school year and those will be available to your child on assessment days.



# Absences 101

## Who Do You Contact When...

Your child will be absent due to an illness, vacation or other reason? [Westview attendance, wv.attendance@district196.org](mailto:wv.attendance@district196.org) or call the office at 952-431-8380 to report an absence. You will need to know your child's student ID to use the online method. Please include your name, your student's full name, your student's grade and teacher, the reason for the absence and your phone number in case there are questions.

If we don't hear from you, your child's absence will be considered an unexcused absence.

### Excused Absences

Illness  
Appointments for doctor, dental, mental health  
Official religious holiday  
Extreme family emergency  
Planned family vacation  
Funeral  
Extreme cold temperatures  
Unique circumstances which are preauthorized by a school administrator

### Unexcused Absences

Parents forgot to wake child  
Parents did not know school schedule  
Child did not feel like going to school  
Child was sleepy  
Child is having difficulty separating from parents  
Child thinks school is boring  
Child doesn't meet state immunization laws  
Child is babysitting a young sibling or relative  
Child does not have transportation to school  
No one called to report a child's absence

## I need to pick my child up early. What do I do?

The easiest option is to call the office as you're on your way or just come in to the office and we will get the kids to the office. You can also email the attendance line and let us know when you're picking up, and/or email the teacher. Generally, we will call the kids once you've arrived, or call and say you're on the way.

## What is a tardy?

If your child arrives in their classroom later than 9:30 am, the child is considered "tardy" and will need to check in at the school office before heading to their classroom.

It is expected that students will be in their seats and ready to learn by 9:30 am.

attendance  
**MATTERS**  
Communication

## Please Keep Us Informed

A dated, signed note is required for the following circumstances:

- Your child is going to someone else's home after school.
- You want your child to stay in during recess or to miss physical education class. If the condition persists longer than three days, we will need a note from your doctor.
- Your child will be picked up by someone other than you as a parent/guardian

## *Bulldog Folders*

Each child will be provided a Bulldog Folder. This folder is used for all communication coming to and from the school in your child's backpack. The inside of the folder has two pockets, one labeled "Take Home" and one labeled "Return to School". Teachers use the take home side of the folder to send home homework, important notes, class calendars, and more. The return to school side should be used at home to return homework, notes for the teacher, etc. Each Bulldog Folder has a white insert on the front cover which has your child's teacher name, e-mail address and voicemail number, if you should need it.

## *Principal's Newsletter*

A monthly Bulldog Bulletin will be sent home with your child each month. This newsletter will keep you informed of building-level activities and events. The principal also sends electronic updates which can be found on the Westview website under What's Happening/School Newsletter.

## *Parent/Teacher Conferences*

Formal conferences are held twice a year during Fall and winter trimesters. This year's conferences will be held Wednesday, November 1st from 4-8 pm and Thursday, November 2nd from 12-8 pm and Wednesday, February 7th from 4-8 pm and Thursday, February 8th from 12-8 pm. Evening and day appointments are available and can be scheduled online by visiting the Westview web site during the conference scheduling window.

## *What's going on?*

There are many ways to keep in touch with what is going on at Westview. Of course, there is our own website [www.District196.org/WV](http://www.District196.org/WV). Some classrooms also have their own individual online accounts that parents may access. You may "like" [Westview Elementary Bulldogs](#) on Facebook, and you may also follow Westview Elementary@WVBulldogs on Twitter. We would love to connect with you!



# What to Know About Drop-off and Pick-up

## Dropping Off in the Morning

A student's day officially begins at 9:30 am. This is when students are expected to be in their seats and ready to begin the day. If your child eats breakfast at school, he/she should arrive at 9:15 am. If your child does **not** ride the bus, please time his/her arrival at 9:15 am so there is sufficient time to unpack their belongings and complete their morning jobs.

If you are dropping your child off, use the "front" parking lot along Garden View Drive by the front door. The back entrance to Westview is reserved for buses during the beginning and end of the school day.

## Pick-up at the End of the Day

Walkers and car riders are excused at 3:40 pm. All other students are excused at 3:45 pm. If you are picking your student up with a car, this will happen in the main parking lot.. To ensure the safety of students and to keep traffic moving, please...

- Continue to move forward with the line of traffic until your child arrives at your vehicle
- Have your child enter/exit your vehicle next to the yellow curb
- Do not cut into an open spot, wait your turn in line
- Drive slowly and have patience! Respect others who are entering or exiting because you are a role model for our future drivers.
- If special circumstances require you to park, your student must wait to be crossed by an adult. We will not allow any children to walk through the parking lot without an adult.
- All students not picked up by 4:00 pm will be waiting in the office.

**If you will be meeting your child and walking home, please wait for them outside the main entrance.**

Thank you.



# CAR RIDER



# Campus Parent Portal - What's that?!

It is our tool for parents to access instant, online, timely and secure student information such as family information, attendance, report cards, and health information. Once you've finished your initial set up, it's accessible at <http://www.district196.org/parents>

Campus Portal also allows you to select options for receiving communications from your school and school district. Information in the portal may vary from grade level and school. Please note that the school district reserves the right to change availability of information without notice.

## *Where Can I Find Campus Portal?*

The link to login into Campus Portal can be found on the front page of the Westview web site or by clicking [here](#). Once you have created your account and completed the Emergency/Health Review, you can download the **Infinite Campus Mobile Portal** app if you desire. On your first log in type Rosemount for the district name and Minnesota for the state. From there, you will use your personal log in credentials that you created earlier.

## *What is on Campus Parent Portal?*

In the parent portal you will have access to report cards and attendance in elementary school. The Portal will follow your child all the way through high school and will include more items as your child gets older.

## *How to Set-up a Campus Portal Account*

In order to set up a Campus Portal account, you first need to get your "access code" from Westview. Call the office and they can send you your code and instructions to get it set up.

If you run into any problems setting up your Campus Portal account, please contact the Westview office at 952-431-8380.

For more complete directions, go to  
<http://www.district196.org/parents>  
and click on Infinite Campus

# What is Bulldog STRONG?

Bulldog Strong is a program at Westview that is used to support and encourage positive behaviors and values. Our staff has committed to using common language around positive behaviors in all areas of our school and encouraging and reinforcing these across the building. We also have a school chant and a school song to further build Bulldog Strong. Students and classrooms recognized as demonstrating Bulldog Strong behaviors are rewarded with 'Bulldog Strong' tickets which can be turned in for different rewards throughout the school year. Below is the Bulldog Strong matrix outlining the characteristics we are reinforcing throughout the school year. This is something we encourage you to reinforce at home as well! Ask your child how they were Bulldog Strong today!

## Strong mind, strong body, strong character - all year long!

	Instructional Area	Hallway	Bathroom	Lunchroom	Recess	Bus
<b>S</b> SELF-CONTROL	*Check your body *Safe Choices *You're Ready to Learn	*Voices off *Walk *Hands to self	*Voices Off *Go and Go	*6 inch voice *Stay seated with knees under table *Raise hand	*Be safe. *Be aware. *Body in control *Use equipment appropriately	*Stay seated *6 inch voice
<b>T</b> TEAMWORK	*Cooperate *Participate *Brain in the group	*Walk with your class *No gap	*Take turns	*Be patient	*Include others *Share space & equipment *Play fair	*Be patient
<b>R</b> RESPECT	*Respectful Words and Responses *Acceptance *Respect space	*Respect learning	*Honor privacy *Respect learning	*Accept other's food choices *Listen & follow adults' directions	*Sportsmanship *Listen & follow adult directions	*Listen & follow directions of driver and patrols
<b>O</b> OWNERSHIP	*Own your words *Own your actions *Show Bulldog pride	*Own your actions *Take care of your own locker area	*Keep bathroom clean *Use bathroom break wisely	*Clean up eating area *Eat your OWN food	*Line up first time called *Take care of equipment *Dress for the weather	*Own your actions *Take care of your belongings
<b>N</b> NOBLE ACTIONS	*Encourage	*Walk tall *Be alert	*Report concerns *Tidy up	*Use table manners *Help others	*Speak truthfully *Be an exceptional role model *Report concerns	*Share your seat *Help others *Report concerns
<b>G</b> GRATITUDE	*Polite manners *Appreciate the positive	*Polite manners	*Use supplies wisely	*Polite manners *Thank the lunch staff	*Polite manners *Appreciate the positive	*Polite manners *Thank your driver



# Lunch and Recess

## What's For Lunch?

To access the lunch and breakfast calendars please click here: [Lunch and Breakfast menu](#)  
Nutrislice creates the district lunch and breakfast calendars and they've created (Nutrislice) an app that you can download to your smart phone to view the school lunch and breakfast calendars from your phone.

## What do I need to know regarding Free Breakfast and Lunch this year?

Each child is assigned a 5-digit pin number/lanyard to use when getting Breakfast and lunch. Your child will use the same pin number throughout all their years at schools within District 196. We will still verify each student's account at every meal for various reasons including checking for allergies and dietary needs.

It is still very important to fill out the Educational Benefits application, formerly known as the Free and Reduced Meal Application. This form helps determine where reimbursement for meals will come from as well as helps the school with procuring educational supplies. Goto: <https://paypams.com/OnlineApp.aspx> and click on the APPLY button to submit your application (only one application is needed per household).

Milk is only free if you get it as a part of a meal. If you are only taking a milk, the cost is \$0.40. For this reason, you may need to have money in your account.

Money may be deposited into your child's lunch account in two ways:

1. You may deposit money electronically into your child's account using [PayPams](#)  
Log into your child's account to access your child's lunch account.
2. You may send a check or cash with your child to school. Checks are to be written out to **ISD 196 Food Service** and include your student's full name and ID or PIN. Your student will need to give the money to their teacher.

If you are looking to receive reimbursement for money already in your student's account, please go to the district nutrition services site and click on the "Student Meal Account Refund/Transfer Request" button. <https://www.district196.org/services/food-and-nutrition-services>



### 2023-2024 Pricing

Adults Lunch	\$4.95	---	---	---
Milk ala carte	\$ .40	---	---	---

## Recess

Students at Westview enjoy a 20-minute recess outside each day. Teachers participate and supervise their own students to build a stronger community. They are expected to go outside each day unless it's raining, or the temperature or wind chill is below zero. During the winter months, students should be dressed appropriately with winter coats, snow pants, boots, hats and mittens.

# Curriculum & Specialist Classes

## Curriculum

District 196 offers a comprehensive core district-wide curriculum. The core curriculum is complemented with a variety of electives and co-curricular opportunities to ensure the students' academic and social-emotional learning needs are met at each school. I

if you would like detailed information about the curriculum, please click on the following link: [ISD 196](#)

## Curriculum

## Specialist Classes

Westview follows a rotation of specialist classes including Art, Physical Education, Music and Media. Our specialist classes are designed to integrate and support classroom curriculum and offer enrichment learning experiences. As part of Music, each grade except kindergarten and third grade participate in a music concert. We highly encourage you to attend as they are the demonstration of months of hard work by your student and are always a favorite event of parents. Third grade participates in a Specialist Night, which features fun activities for parents and students that highlight all the specialist classes at Westview. Kindergarten students have a Celebrate Learning event in May to demonstrate their many areas of growth during their first year at Westview.

## Technology

Westview has one computer lab in addition to having computers for student use in many of our classrooms. In Kindergarten through 3rd grade, technology lessons are integrated into the library curriculum. Students learn internet safety, computer basics such as keyboarding skills and how to research topics and create presentations. In the older grades, technology is taught by the classroom teachers, through library media lessons and integrated into the classroom curriculum. District 196 also has I-Pads issued to all students. This will enable those students to use their I-Pad for educational use in the classroom and at home.

## Band

Band starts in 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Westview. Students register for band in the spring of 4<sup>th</sup> grade and will be given the opportunity to take summer lessons to get a jump on things. Once school starts, small group instrument lessons take place weekly during school, and band group practice takes place starting in October.

**Instrument rental is available.**



## GTD~Gifted & Talented Development

District 196 provides a continuum of services directed to meet the needs of gifted and talented students. Services include curriculum differentiation provided by classroom teachers as well as academic opportunities offered by the building GT specialist. Students may self-select some opportunities, while others are offered based on standardized test scores and/or recommendations by classroom teachers. Students selected for more specialized programming meet criteria that are consistent throughout all District 196 schools. Each building's GT specialist can provide information specific to their school.

## ELL

The EL (English Language Learner) program at Westview Elementary provides academic instruction and support to students who are learning English. Some of the languages spoken by our students at Westview are Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Amharic, Hmong, Urdu, Nuer, Khmer, Arabic, Oromo, Lao, Russian, and Swahili.

**WE ♥ SCHOOL!**

# School Events to Look Forward To

There is always something fun happening at Westview! We have numerous student and community building events throughout the school year. These events make for some of the biggest highlights of our students' school year and parent volunteers are always appreciated!

## Bulldog Breakfasts - September & October

Bulldog Breakfast with Families is a great opportunity to meet and connect with other families in your child's grade level. Each grade level staff is host to one Tuesday morning in September or October from 8:45 am to 9:15 am. We start with 5<sup>th</sup> grade on September 12<sup>th</sup> and work our way down the grade levels. A light breakfast is provided to everyone in your family while you mingle with other parents and children. The menu is usually a variety of cereal, breads and pastries, milk, coffee and juice. It's a great way to get connected at the start of the year!

## Bulldog Strong Bingo

Bulldog STRONG bingo is a favorite tradition here at Westview! The Bingo game will be broadcast to all classrooms and the kids bark their way down to their prize. Older students buddy up with younger students to help with the activity, and a chance to win a variety of prizes!



## Westview Carnival - May 17

This is a favorite event of our students! Our annual school carnival is held on a Friday from 5-8 pm and features games, food and activities. It takes many volunteers to make this a successful event. Please consider volunteering.

## 5<sup>th</sup> grade Track and Field day - May 17

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade track & field day will take place at Apple Valley High School. Students participate in both individual and team events against other District 196 schools. It is a fun day that builds a lot of school pride amongst our students. Parents are encouraged to come and cheer them on!

## Bulldog Fun Run-June 5

Westview celebrates the end of the school year with a school wide fun run event. Students participate in an all-day school pep rally and one mile run followed by a bag lunch picnic outside and a DJ dance party. This is a fun way to end a great school year!



# Before and after School Activities

## Achievers Classes

Westview Achievers is a program dedicated to promoting academic achievement and opportunities for students in K-5 who qualify for additional academic support through targeted services.

## Community Education After School Classes

Westview offers after school classes for children in collaboration with ISD 196 Community Education.

## Da Capo Choir

If your 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> grader loves to sing, Westview's Da Capo Choir provides an opportunity for him/her to share their passion for music with others! Da Capo meets on Tuesday mornings from 8:10-9:10 am. for seven weeks, and ends with a performance.

## Destination Imagination

Destination Imagination is a community based, school-friendly program that builds participants creativity, problem-solving skills and teamwork in an enjoyable and meaningful way. Students in grades 3, 4 & 5 can join in the Fall and form teams of up to 7 members to solve one of six different challenges, which they perform in front of appraisers at tournaments.



## Guys Read

Guys Read is a book club open to all interested 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys. Teachers Mr. Hoepfner, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Lyrek, Mr. Lovmo, and Mr. Thies lead the group. Meetings are usually held in the library at 8:30 am on the third Thursday of each month.

## Westview TV

Westview TV is our live, daily news broadcast that airs throughout our entire building. Two student news anchors and one student technology team member is assigned for a two-week commitment. Students learn all the skills necessary to be successful and then go live!



## Maud Hart Lovelace Book Club

In conjunction with the Maud Hart Lovelace Award, sponsored by Minnesota Youth Reading Awards, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to participate in our Maud Hart Lovelace Book Club. The selected books have a variety of genres, lengths and subjects and multiple copies of each nominated book are available in our library, as well as the Dakota County branch libraries. Our book club has twelve meetings during the school year where children will discuss the nominated books, share insights, opinions, and ask questions. Students who read all twelve books and attend our meetings will be invited to attend our celebration event in May held in the Media Center. There is no cost to participate.

## Student Council

The Westview Student Council is made up of selected representatives from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades, and all interested 5<sup>th</sup> graders who are Bulldog STRONG and would like to participate. Our goal is to serve both school and community through service and team building opportunities. Mandatory meetings are held at 8:30 am once a month. There is no fee to participate.



## What else??!

We have so many great things going on here at Westview, it's hard to fit it all in! However, there are a few things we feel you should know!



## Westview Community Garden

Westview has developed a wonderful Community Garden program. Each spring our students help with the planting of the garden, giving them the opportunity to learn about growing food and now flowers! Families are welcome to come harvest the berries available and cut fresh flowers for their table or for a friend. Talk to Lorinda Miller, or Steph Nord if you're interested in learning more or sharing ideas.

## Social Worker on Staff

Westview is lucky enough to have a full time Social Worker, Virginia Fritz, on staff. If you are a family in need of school supplies, snow gear or other support, please contact Ms. Fritz by calling the main office. Ms. Fritz also spends time in classrooms, teaching them about friendship building, how to handle bullying, as well as how to overcome obstacles life deals us.

## Visitors at Westview

We LOVE visitors here at Westview! We are often asked if it's okay for parents or grandparents to come and have lunch with their child. We love to have you come and visit, but our lunchroom is so full we are asking for no extra guests in there. We do have a table in the office, a picnic table out back and a table by the front entrance where you could sit and have lunch with your child if you'd like. All you need to do is check in at the office to sign in on the computer and grab your visitors badge while you are in the school. It's just that easy! A driver's license makes the sign in quick, but you can do it without as well.



## PTO and Volunteering

### PTO

Westview nurtures a lifelong learning atmosphere for students and their families. The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is a strong and active force that supports students, classrooms, teachers and families through fundraising, monthly newsletters, fine arts enrichment and volunteers in classrooms. Meetings will usually be held in the Media Center 6:00pm-7:00pm on Monday. Please check the school calendar and we welcome your attendance anytime you can make it.

### PTO Fundraising

Our PTO coordinates many fundraisers for our school throughout the school year, including Butter Braids in the fall, Scholastic Book Fair in the fall and spring, APEX Run in the spring, and then the Carnival in the spring. These fundraisers provide funds for many great things including technology upgrades for the school, staff funding and more. Help is always appreciated to help make these fundraisers a success!



## *Volunteering at Westview*

Whether you work in or outside the home, there are so many opportunities to be involved in at Westview! For those of you who like to interact with children, there are programs that allow you to work directly in the classroom. For those of you who would prefer to work behind the scenes, we can help you do that as well. We love our volunteers, and your kids love to see you being a part of their day. Whether you have just a few hours a year or several hours a month, we can help you find some way to be involved! For more information about volunteering, email your child's teacher to see if they need help or [Lisa.Kissell@district96.org](mailto:Lisa.Kissell@district96.org).

