

Winchell Parent Handbook

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Winchell Office Phone Number: (269) 337-0780

Introduction

Vision

At Winchell Elementary School, our vision is for a learning environment that prepares every student to be well-equipped to successfully access higher education.

Mission

To achieve this vision, all students must leave Winchell Elementary School at or above grade level in the core content areas of reading, writing, and mathematics and be prepared to use their education to be productive citizens. Our priorities include: eliminating the equity gap that exists for African American students, other students of color and students of low socioeconomic status, a focus on the student as an individual, an atmosphere of emotional and physical safety, academic achievement, self-confidence and self-esteem, strong character, and active participation in the community. Through our collaboration with families and our greater community, we strive to create a powerful, flexible, and innovative culture of learning.

Belief Statements

As a college going culture, Winchell will:

- maintain high expectations for all students.
- expose students to higher education.
- provide meaningful and engaging homework.
- focus on literacy (reading, writing, and language).
- offer substantial opportunities for family/community involvement.
- provide an education that is relevant to, reflective of, and inclusive of students.
- develop strong problem-solving skills .
- develop success skills: note taking, study, time management, organizational and test taking skills.

As a school that recognizes the existence of inequities for African American students, other students of color and students of low socioeconomic status, Winchell will:

- Recognize that unconscious bias exists and negatively impacts African American students, other students of color and students of low socioeconomic status.
- Actively combat low expectations for African American Students, other students of color and students of low socioeconomic status.
- Create a culture that allows staff members to challenge each other in regards to, and have open conversations about, equity, bias and our school practices.

As a school that focuses on the individual, Winchell will:

- recognize and accommodate individual differences, interests and abilities within the curriculum, instructional practice and assessment.

- provide enrichment/acceleration for students who have mastered the essential knowledge.
- Connect students and families to necessary services through the school or community.

As a school that ensures an atmosphere of emotional and physical safety, Winchell will:

- take bullying seriously and handle it in a way that protects students from further harm.
- explicitly teach and reinforce behavioral expectations.
- implement procedures to protect students from unexpected circumstances.
- view all students as everyone's responsibility and intervene whenever necessary.
- treat students with respect and caring.

As a school that focuses on academic achievement, Winchell will:

- have a clear understanding of the essential knowledge students must master at each grade level.
- regularly review multiple sources of student data to inform instructional practices.
- implement interventions to help students who did not learn the essential knowledge.

As a school that instills self- confidence and self esteem, Winchell will:

- focus students on effort rather than innate ability.
- recognize and celebrate diversity.
- provide multiple opportunities for students to be successful.
- recognize students' uniqueness and value.
- promote, recognize and celebrate individual and collective effort and achievement.

As a school that develops character, Winchell will:

- treat each other with mutual respect, consideration and acceptance.
- publicly recognize students for positive displays of character.
- emphasize positive character traits in assemblies, classrooms and the school at large.

As a school that leads students to be active members in their communities, Winchell will:

- provide opportunities for students to serve and participate with the extended community.
- support students' efforts to aid local and world charities.

As a school that embraces family and community involvement, Winchell will:

- expect parents and families to play an active role in the education of their children, monitor their children's academic performance and work positively and collaboratively with staff to maximize their child's educational experience.
- promote effective two-way communication with family and the community.

Please use [this link](#) to view the District's Health and Safety Guidelines

Staff Email Addresses

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Part I: School Policies and Procedures

Literacy

School-Wide Reading Expectation:

TWENTY MINUTES A DAY IS THE WINCHELL WAY. Literacy is the gateway to success! To help us succeed in achieving our mission of every child at or above grade level, all students are expected to read a minimum of 20 minutes every night (30 minutes in grades 3-5). For younger students, this will mean being read to or reading with a parent or sibling. We recommend setting aside a time when the entire family reads together EVERY NIGHT.

Accelerated Reader/Reading Renaissance:

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a computerized testing program with leveled books, and Reading Renaissance (RR) focuses on the teaching and learning that takes place during independent reading time. During RR, students discuss story elements and themes and exercise critical thinking when conferencing with the teacher. Teachers also help students expand their reading experiences by encouraging different genres, story topics, and author studies.

1. **Winchell is setting the standard that every family will spend 20–30 minutes reading every night.**
2. The main objective of the program is to **develop lifelong independent readers** and to create and promote the enjoyment of reading. Also, we use RR to develop comprehension skills and track independent reading levels.
3. **Although points are tracked and goals are set, the program is not about earning points.** Points reflect time spent reading. They are a part of the program's game model used to get kids excited about reading.
4. Students begin the process by completing a computerized test called **STAR**, which gives an **approximate** Independent Reading Level (**IRL**). This level is called the Zone of Proximal Development (**ZPD**). Research dictates that students must read within their ZPD to produce the maximum amount of progress.
5. **Grade 1 tests on stories from the reading curriculum, and individuals may use the program independently. Grade 1 is a learning year for AR.**
6. **Grade 2 allocates 10–25 minutes a day (gradually increasing).** At this level, RR includes reading independently, reading with someone, and being read to.
7. **Grades 3–6 allocate 30–40 minutes a day to RR.**
8. During RR, **students read independently, and the teacher circulates and conferences with students about what they are reading.** Based on the student's ZPD and the time allotted, an individual point goal is set for the student.
9. **Each goal is totally individualized and attainable!!**
10. **Every book that is part of AR is given a point value.** After completing a book, a conference is held between the student and the teacher. If the teacher believes the student is ready, the student takes a computerized test. He/she is awarded points based on correct answers. **Students should hold a marking period average of 85–92% on tests.** After every test, a report is produced that tells the student and the teacher the book level, the

average book level throughout the marking period, the percentage of correct answers given, the average percentage correct throughout the marking period, and the percentage of the goal earned so far.

11. **The classroom teacher makes instructional decisions based on these reports.** If a student is averaging below 85–92%, or if he/she is scoring 100% on every test, the student's independent reading level will be adjusted.
12. Students and parents can access student AR information at Renaissance Home Connect with the student's username and password.
13. <https://hosted73.renlearn.com/134986/HomeConnect/Login.aspx>.
14. Books can be looked up at AR Book Finder. <http://www.arbookfind.com/default.aspx>

Standardized Testing:

NWEA MAP: a computerized assessment in reading, math, and science given to all students three times per year.

Fastbridge:

MSTEP: the statewide assessment (based on grade level content expectations) given to 3rd–5th graders in the spring. Math, reading, writing, science (4th), and social studies (5th) are tested.

CogAT: An aptitude test given to 2nd graders and used in the Academically Talented screening process.

Conduct

Masks:

Masks must be properly worn in buildings at all times, except when eating or drinking. Masks are not required outside but may be enforced at the principal's discretion. Winchell will follow the district guidelines when dealing with students who refuse to wear a mask indoors.

School-Wide Behavior Expectations:

Winchell's school-wide behavior program is based on Positive Behavior Supports. This is a systematic approach to praising and encouraging those students who are positive models of our behavior expectations. To ensure all students understand what the school-wide expectations are throughout the building, we spend time at the beginning of the year and in January, on the identification, teaching, modeling, and practice of behavior expectations.

Winchell R.O.C.K.S.

- At Winchell, staff and students are Respectful, Outstanding individuals, Cooperative, Kind, and Safe.
- We will be using **R.O.C.K.S.tars** as our positive-behavior recognition ticket. ROCKStar tickets are given when a student is modeling one of the school-wide expectations.
- Tickets can be put in the classroom collection and sent down to the office for the daily drawing or students may save their tickets to purchase Winchell ROCKS merchandise or special privileges (e.g., using a hat at an assembly).
- One **ROCKStar Student of the Week** is selected from every classroom. Students are announced on Friday morning's announcements. They come to the office and receive a

special recognition prize and their pictures are displayed in the entryway for the following week.

- Special assemblies will take place during the year to celebrate school wide behavior (e.g., low referral percentage).

Disciplinary Actions:

In the event that discipline is required for a student, the following options are utilized by Winchell staff and administrators:

- problem-solving conference to help the student understand the issue at hand and how it might be solved in a healthy way
- written apology to the individual impacted
- reteaching, with extra practice of expectations
- time-out in another classroom
- lunch detention
- community service
- parent conference
- after-school detention
- Saturday School
- out-of-school suspension (absolute last resort)

A phone call will be made to parents for any of the above.

Bullying:

In compliance with state law, the school board has adopted an anti-bullying policy, including a provision that staff be trained on how to handle bullying in schools. The district has set up a course for staff members to receive this training. Completion is mandatory. Any complaint of bullying will be investigated and reported to the Department of Student Services.

Bus Conduct:

The bus is considered part of the school building and students are expected to meet the school behavioral expectations while on the bus, including properly wearing a mask at all times. If a bus referral is written by the driver the parent will be called by the principal or his designee. For inappropriate bus behavior, the school may enforce consequences, including a bus suspension. If a bus suspension is issued, the child should attend school through an alternate mode of transportation. If the student does not come to school while on a bus suspension, the absence is considered unexcused.

Student Dress Code:

If a student is wearing a piece of clothing that is out of compliance with the following guidelines, we will make a call home so the parent/guardian can rectify the situation. We are also willing to offer a replacement piece of clothing that the student may wear for the remainder of the day.

- All messages on clothing should be school appropriate. (Avoid put downs, alcohol, guns, violence, sarcastic humor.)
- Shirts should entirely cover the midriff.
- Hats and sunglasses may be worn only outside the school building, such as at recess.

- Jewelry may be worn as long as it does not distract the wearer or others.
- Roller shoes may be worn to school but may not have the wheels in them.
- Fashion accessories that do not aid learning will not be allowed (e.g., non-prescription eyewear).

If the school decides that a particular article is causing a problem for individual students, the school will contact the parent and determine a plan regarding the article.

Entry, Dismissal, and Visitation

Entry:

- Supervision begins before school at 8:30 a.m. Students should not be on the playground without an adult before that time.
- As part of our COVID safety protocols, no parents/caregivers will be allowed to enter the main school building in the morning or prior to dismissal.
- Lunch room visits are not permitted.
- Special programs and celebrations inviting parents into the classroom will be temporarily suspended.
- **I ask that dogs are not brought to school for drop off or pick up.**
- To keep the sidewalks clear for parents and buses, students are asked to wait in line in the breezeway or on the playground prior to entry.
- The entry bell rings at 8:44,
 - Grades 4 and 5 enter through outside classroom door
 - Grade 1 through entry door near classrooms
 - Grade 3 walk around the gym to outside classroom doors
 - K and 2 through the main entrance
 - Grade level teachers will determine a staggered schedule to use lockers to minimize groups in the hallways together.
- From 8:44–8:50, students can go straight to their classrooms.
- At 8:50, the tardy bell rings and arriving students must be signed in at the office by a parent.

Dismissal:

To promote social distancing, classrooms will exit through their outside doors and proceed to the designated pick up areas.

Pick areas are organized by grade and utilize the sidewalk along Winchell. **Grades 4 and 5 will stage in front of Disciples of Christ, grades PK, K and 1 will stage in school breezeway,**

grades 2 and 3 will stage in front of Third CRC (see map). Bus dismissal remains the same.



Procedures:

- Grade level teachers will walk students to their assigned pick up areas. **Walkers, bike riders, and Primetime students will be dismissed from the classroom. Bus riders will be taken to the north parking lot by a grade level teacher.**
- **Siblings:** Older siblings will report their youngest sibling's classroom and wait for pick up in the assigned area of the youngest sibling.
- **Parking/Waiting:** Parents/guardians should park/wait at the assigned area of their youngest child. In the grade 2-3 and 4-5 areas, our goal is for parents to park along the sidewalk curb, stay in our near their cars, and allow children to come to the car (no child will be allowed to cross the street without a parent or guardian). **If you are planning to come into the school, or stay after school to play, please park in one of the church lots so we can keep the flow of cars moving.**
 - **The flow of traffic in the PK-1 area will run differently**, as PK and K parents must come to the teacher to pick up their children. The parking loop has been separated into thirds. The outside lanes are for parking. The middle lane is for thru traffic. Mr. Hughes, or his designee, will be directing traffic in this area at dismissal. Cars blocking the flow of the middle lane will be waved through (if this happens I encourage you to take Broadway to Crosswind to Aberdeen and reenter the loop).
- **Weather:** This pick up procedure will happen everyday. Students should be prepared for inclement weather. I encourage you to keep small umbrellas in backpacks and make sure students are dressed appropriately in cold weather.
- **Communication to Families:** The plan will be sent via school messenger, placed on the school website and sent through Facebook. **please communicate the pick up plan to grandparents, family members or friends who may pick up your child from time to time.**

Primetime:

Winchell maintains a partnership with the YMCA to provide before- and after-school supervision (prior to 8:30 a.m. and after 3:50 p.m.). Primetime hours begin at 6:30 a.m. and end at 6 p.m. For Primetime information, contact the Maple Street YMCA.

After school ride arrangements:

Problems often arise with miscommunications regarding transportation home. Students may not ride a bus home that is not part of their normal schedule. (That includes going home with a friend on a one time basis.) In addition, if you pick up one of your children early, please leave directions for his/her siblings.

Visiting your child during the school day:

- As part of our COVID safety protocols, no parents/caregivers will be allowed to enter the main school building in the morning or prior to dismissal.
- Lunch room visits are not permitted.
- Special programs and celebrations inviting parents into the classroom will be temporarily suspended.

Taking your child out early:

If you wish to take your child prior to dismissal, he/she must be signed out in the office. **When an adult arrives in the building**, the office secretary will call down to the classroom and have your child sent down with the things needed to go home. Please be sure that anyone picking up your child—whether early or at dismissal—is on your child's pick-up list (located on your child's registration). If the pick-up person is not on the list, he/she will not be allowed to take your child home.

We also ask that you limit early dismissal for children as much as possible. Our teachers work very hard to make good use of every minute and it is difficult to move on to new material when students are not present.

Breakfast/Lunch/Recess

As a COVID safety measure, students will eat in classrooms everyday under the supervision of an activity helper. Students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer prior to and after eating. Desks will be wiped with a disinfecting wipe prior to and after eating.

Although a monthly calendar goes out, short notice changes may take place because of global supply chain issues. The KPS app contains a link to the nutrislice website that will have the most current menu items.

Lunch Schedule:

Grades 4 and 5

Lunch	11:00-11:25
Recess	11:25-11:50

Grades 2 and 3

Recess	11:55-12:20
Lunch	12:20-12:45

Grades K-1

Recess	12:55-1:20
Lunch	1:25-1:45

Payment:

Winchell has qualified to offer every child free lunch everyday. Food Service mailed families a Household Information Report that should be completed and returned to the school.

Breakfast:

Breakfast is delivered to the rooms and students eat breakfast at their desks. It is the school-wide expectation for students to be finished eating and ready to learn at 9 a.m. **All children may eat breakfast for free, regardless of parental income levels.**

Lunch:

Students have the option of ordering lunch everyday. The children are welcome to bring a lunch from home. We ask that parents limit candy and do not send pop or energy drinks. These items cause a major disruption during lunch.

Snacks:

Healthy snacks are permitted in the classroom. The classroom teacher determines the time and procedures for snacks. Please be aware that we do have some students with severe allergies. Teachers will alert parents of acceptable snacks if an allergy is present.

Food Allergies:

We have many students in our building with severe food allergies. Teachers will send home information of any allergies that exist in your child's classroom. We ask that you consider the medical needs of all children when you pack lunches and snacks.

Recess:

Masks are recommended but not mandatory during outdoor recess. However, if students are clustering together they will be asked to wear masks.

Our goal is to provide a safe, fun, and interesting activity time during the recess period. Recess is supervised by activity helpers.

When the weather does not allow for outdoor recess, students return to their classrooms for activity time. The activity supervisor runs whole-class games and has access to a bin of games for students to play.

Miscellaneous

Home/School Communication:

A newsletter from the school principal will come home every Monday. The newsletter is sent electronically via School Messenger. Otherwise, parents can opt in to receive a paper copy sent

home each week. Up-to-date news and archived newsletters can be accessed from Winchell's homepage on the KPS website. Parents should also expect to receive a classroom newsletter, containing curricular information and upcoming events, at least every two weeks.

We also encourage parents to visit the Winchell website at www.kalamazoopublicschools.com. the links to AR bookfinder and other school information.

Specials Schedule:

Grades K–5 receive two sessions of music, two sessions of physical education, and one session of art.

Field Trips:

Currently, we are unsure if any outside trips will take place.

Absences:

If your child is sick and will not be in school, please call the main office **and** send a note with your child when they return to school. Once your child has three unexcused absences the classroom teacher will contact you regarding a plan to avoid future absences. Letters from the office are sent home for students who have missed ten percent of the school year (as of the date of the letter). If a student is showing patterns of chronic absenteeism (ten percent or more), a Building Team Meeting, consisting of the principal, social worker, school psychologist, classroom teacher and parent, will meet to formulate a plan to improve attendance.

Medication:

All student medications (including inhalers, aspirin, epiPens, Tylenol, etc.) **must be kept in the office**. Any student receiving medication at school should report to the office at the designated time to receive his/her medication. A form, signed by the child's physician, **MUST** be on file in the office in order for a child to be given any type of medication. If it is believed that a student needs headache or cold medication, the parent will be called.

Pets:

Children often ask to bring pets to school for show-and-tell. It is school policy that pets may be brought to school if they remain in a cage or crate for the entire visit. A note must also go home prior to the visit to determine if any students have pet allergies. **We also ask that parents not bring pets to school during drop off and pick up.**

Electronics and Toys:

Toys and electronics should not be brought to school if possible. However, as long as toys/electronics, including cell phones, are turned off and kept in backpacks, they will not be a problem. If your child needs to contact you during the day, he/she should ask the teacher and use the school phone. Generally, students are given the opportunity to put items away, however, the school reserves the right to hold any item for a parent to pick up.

Lost and Found:

We have a very difficult time with unclaimed lost and found items. At the end of each recess period and the end of each school day, items are placed at the front of the cafeteria. After a few days, they are placed in boxes in the hallway outside the library. At conferences, we set out a table with all of the items collected. After conferences, leftover clothing is given to the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission.

Part II: Parent Opportunities and School Wide Events

School Improvement Team

The school improvement team is composed of volunteer parents and staff members and is responsible for evaluating school performance in all areas. Specific attention is focused on the academic achievement of our students. This team analyzes school achievement data and plans for future improvement. SIT necessitates a sustained commitment of an hour and a half per month as well as the possibility of some homework assignments to bring back to the group.

Open House

This year our Open House will be combined with our Ice Cream Social. The district stated that the elementary Open House needed to be held virtual and we wanted to give families a chance to see classrooms with their children.

Community Picnic

This is a long standing partnership with Third Christian Reformed Church. The goal of the picnic is to promote friendship between all members of the Winchell Community. Although the event is held on church grounds, this is not a religious event. The church provides the food for dinner (burgers, hotdogs, chips, etc) and Winchell families bring a dessert to pass (bring your dessert to the picnic). Tables and chairs are set up on the church lawn and activities are provided for kids.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conferences are held in October and March. They provide an opportunity for parents/guardians to visit with their child's teachers to discuss student progress and any academic, developmental, and behavioral issues.. Each conference is allotted 20 minutes. Afternoon and evening time slots are available; teachers will work with parents to set up a time that fits into work schedules. The school sends home appointment requests three weeks in advance as well as confirmation slips when the schedule is completed. Teachers also attempt to schedule sibling conferences close together.

It is still uncertain if conferences will be in person, virtual or a mix of both.

Literacy Night

This fun evening, usually held from 5:00–6:30 p.m. on a school night, is a terrific way for families to get involved in reading together.

Global Reading Challenge

Global Reading Challenge is run by the Kalamazoo Public Library and takes place in March. Students in grades 4–5 sign up on classroom teams to read books selected by the library. Teams

compete in a quiz bowl-style competition based on the content of the selected books. The winner of the school competition advances to the city-wide competition. Teams meet after school or during recess to practice for the competition. Teams are coached by a participant's parent.

Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run is a character-development program for girls entering the 3rd–5th grade. The program encourages girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through running and it concludes with the girls participating in a 5k run/walk with participants from other schools and community organizations. The nine-week program starts in March and ends in late May. Girls meet for an hour and a half twice a week at the school and are placed on teams (maximum of 15 girls per team) with two coaches who have been trained by Greater Kalamazoo Girls on the Run.

Applications for Girls on the Run are sent home in the fall. All girls are welcome to participate, but we have a limited number of teams, so return your applications as soon as possible!

School Starts at 4

PEEP and Kindergarten Orientation takes place in March and is an opportunity for prospective Winchell kindergarteners and PEEPer to tour classrooms and meet the teachers. At the same time, parents turn in paperwork—including forms mailed to them by the school, immunization records, and a copy of the child's birth certificate (a copier is available at the school for making these copies).

At orientation, children can enjoy a story read by one of our volunteers, make a craft, and get a kindergarten t-shirt. Winchell fifth graders lead tours of the school with special stops at the kindergarten classrooms, and parents and children can take a ride on a school bus. This orientation is a wonderful way for incoming PEEPer and kindergarteners to get a preview of the great fun they'll have at Winchell!

All Children Exercising Simultaneously (ACES)

ACES is a national event that encourages students to be active by exposing them to a wide range of physical activities. ACES takes place one afternoon in May. Students in grades K–2 students take a walk around the neighborhood and students in grades 3–5 participate in a specific sport of their choosing. Sporting events are generally manned by staff members and parent volunteers. The day ends with an ACES-themed performance.

Kindergarten Completion

Kindergarten Completion is typically held on the second-to-last half day of school. The ceremony takes place in the cafeteria. Students perform a few songs and receive a small recognition certificate. A slide show of the year ends the ceremony.

Fifth Grade Completion

Fifth Grade Completion is typically held the last half day of the school year. It is held in the gym and cafeteria from 6:30–7:30 p.m. The ceremony consists of staff and student speakers, songs from the school choir, student recognition, and a slide show. There is a celebration party for the students after the ceremony from 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Fifth grade parents decorate the gym and the cafeteria, host refreshment tables, chaperone the party, donate food and drinks, and clean up after the party.

A meeting will be held in April to begin planning for the completion ceremony.

PTO Overview

The Winchell Elementary PTO is an organization made up of parent volunteers and educators. The mission of the PTO is to improve the school experience for all of our children. Meetings are held once per month in the school library with childcare provided. Meetings might include a guest speaker, progress reports, follow up on events, open discussion for new ideas and projects, and snacks. We encourage all parents to participate in these meetings to share thoughts and ideas and gain a general understanding of how important their involvement is within the PTO. Together, we can do amazing things!

Fundraising

FUN RUN

The Winchell FUN RUN will be held at the school and children will be asked to get pledges for running a one-mile route around the school. If each child raises \$40, there will be enough dollars to support our programs for the entire year! This will eliminate much of the work that goes into multiple fundraisers, allowing the PTO to focus on creating fun, educational family events throughout the year.

Dine-Out Nights

The PTO will be scheduling Dine-Out Nights as a simple way to support Winchell's PTO-funded initiatives. Each Dine-Out Night will take place at an area restaurant during a specified day and time frame. A percentage (typically 30–50%) of the cost of each meal will be donated back to the Winchell PTO. Dates, times, and locations will be announced each month.

Individual teachers also fundraise for specific needs, such as physical education and music equipment. Field trips are also supported by classroom fundraisers.

Many families prefer to send a check directly to the PTO or classroom teacher in lieu of participation in a fundraiser.

Family Directory

Winchell families have the opportunity to be part of a school-wide directory, to help facilitate connections among students and their families. Participation is optional, however we are using a great resource housed at MySchoolAnywhere.com. Information is sent home at the beginning of the year and families can update their contact information at any time. Access to the directory is limited to Winchell families and only those who participate by sharing at least one item of contact information. Families can access the secure directory from the web or from a mobile device.

Annual PTO Events

The PTO puts on several events throughout the year—during school hours, weekday evenings, and on weekends. Most events are free to students and families. (The exceptions are Movie Nights, which have a small admission fee for students and are used as fundraisers.)

School Hours:

During normal school hours, the PTO typically puts on the following events each year: Book Fair (November and May), Kindness Week (January), Reminder-to-Be-Kinder Days (one per month), Science Fair (February/March), Dr. Seuss Week (March), Book Exchange (March), College Day (May), Grandparents and Special Friends Day (TBD), and Teacher Appreciation Week (May). *The Science Fair occurs during normal school hours and the evening of that same day.*

Weekday Evenings and Weekends:

Weekday evenings and weekend events are likely to include, a Family Fun Night (December), a sledding party (January), a Valentine's Dance (February), and four or five Movie Nights throughout the year. Admission to all except Movie Night is free of charge.

A few of the PTO-run events are detailed in the next few sections.

Ice Cream Social

The Ice Cream Social is the opportunity for students to meet their teachers for the coming year. The event is held on the playground behind the school in fair weather and inside the gym in inclement weather. Grade levels are assigned tables and class lists are posted around the outside of the building prior to the event.

Students, parents, and siblings are all encouraged to come. If you want a place to sit, you might want to bring a lawn chair or blanket, as the few outside tables fill up fast. If the event has to be inside, avoid bringing a stroller, as the gym setting gets crowded.

Movie Nights

We are uncertain if movie nights will take place this year. We are looking at an outdoor movie night option.

Book Fair

Scholastic Book Fairs are held twice a year at Winchell. The fall fair is typically in late November. The spring fair occurs near the end of the school year and is a "buy-one-get-one free" sale. Books are available for all levels of reading from toddler to pre-teen. Look for the exact dates of the sales in Winchell's weekly newsletter.

Spirit Sticks

Spirit Sticks are a fun incentive! Spirit Sticks are small custom patches that fit on a key ring and hook to a student's backpack. Students can collect them throughout the year for participating in various events and can earn them for various achievements. Each student can display his/her Spirit Sticks collection by attaching the key ring to the zipper of his/her backpack. Throughout the year, specially themed Spirit Sticks may be available for purchase for a small fee. Watch for more information as well as your child's first Spirit Stick!

Kids Hope USA

Kids Hope USA is a tutoring program that pairs adult volunteers in the community with Winchell students on a one-to-one basis. The volunteer works with the student for one hour each week during normal school hours (in a public setting, such as a work table in the hallway). Teachers recommend students who would most benefit from regular, dependable visits with a caring and patient adult. The volunteers for Kids Hope come from Third Christian Reformed Church next door to the school. The program is purely academic and not religious in nature.

Written Supervision and Screening Policy

Kalamazoo Public Schools conducts background checks on all employees, volunteers, and parents who have contact with children.

All volunteers must provide proof of vaccination before they will be allowed to work in the school.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Normal pest management happens on Friday evening after students are gone. The district will only apply pesticides as a last resort. Winchell will provide written notice, at least 48 hours, if it becomes necessary to spray during the week. This notice will include which pesticide, the target pest or reason for spraying, the approximate location to be sprayed, and the date of application. Teachers will also notify parents with this information in their classroom newsletter and post information on their parent board. 1.800.858.7378 is the toll free number for a national pesticide information center.

Kalamazoo Public Schools

Chromebook Distribution Information

INSTRUCTIONAL AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

2021-22

Elementary

Current Loaners

If you currently have a Chromebook, please keep it at home. Students will use devices at school, and will not transport to and from school. Students without a device may have an opportunity to borrow one if needed in the fall.

Fall 2021

All K-5 classrooms will have "NEW" Chromebooks for student use at school.

*Grades K-2 carts of 15

*Grades 3-5 carts of 30

*These devices do not leave the school.