

*Northern Hills News*  
2024-2025  
**Home of the Hawks!**



Soon we will begin the 2024-2025 school year! I hope that you are enjoying some quality family time over the summer. In the lives of children, there is nothing more important than a strong family unit, no matter how it is structured.

School is also a very important part of a child's growth and development. At Northern Hills, our staff is committed to our district and school mission of working together to ensure high levels of learning for ALL students. You are an integral part of *our* success and ultimately, the success of our children. Thank you in advance, for the effort you will expend in keeping this partnership alive as together we work to educate the children of Northern Hills!

I would like to offer a special word of welcome to families that are new to our school. Many of you have chosen to live here because you believe that the Northern Hills staff will provide the best education possible for your children. We are grateful for your trust and will work hard to live up to your expectations.

The new year is bringing several staffing changes. Here are the new staff that have been hired at this point:

- Kristi Lieser-Hager, 4th Grade Teacher
- Lily Stonestreet, 5th Grade Teacher
- Emily Jacobson, Speech & Language Pathologist
- Gao Vang, Multilingual Teacher
- Emily Perry, Resilient Learner Teacher
- Andi Vogler, Academic Interventionist
- Joan Bucheger, Kitchen Staff
- Jennifer Janda, Special Ed Para
- Jeni Hinitt, Special Ed Para

On the next page are some reminders for you as we get ready for the new school year and important dates to mark on your calendar. We continue to work on classroom assignments through the summer, and aim to send those to families after the picture days in August.

In closing, I encourage you to be as active as you can be in the life of Northern Hills. More communication about visitor and volunteer opportunities will come from classroom teachers as they get settled into the classrooms.

It's going to be a great year!  
Lalisha Olson, Principal

### **Returning Student Registration**

Families will once again use the PowerSchool Parent Portal to access student back to school registration forms. This process will be tentatively available Friday, August 2th. This will come in your email.

This process is not required for Pre-K or new enrollments.

### **Playground Hours**

Our playground has designated hours when it is available to the public, including families.

The playground is open from dawn to dusk during NON-school hours, but supervision is not provided.

The playground is closed to the public from 8:00am-3:20pm on school days.

### **School Hours**

School Hours are 8:30am-3:20pm.

Playground supervision begins at 8:00am, with an option to eat breakfast at 8:05am.

All students will enter the building at 8:25am, and must be in their classrooms by 8:30am. If arriving after 8:30 am, students must come through the office at Door A.

Dismissal is at 3:20pm. Students are dismissed to the playground, Surround Care, or the bus. If your child is not attending Surround Care or riding the bus, please designate a pick up area on the playground and communicate pick up plans to your child's teacher.

Please refer to the pick up/drop off map at the end of the newsletter.

### **Dates to Remember**

**Kindergarten Open House - Cafeteria**

Wednesday, August 28th

Last Names A-L 5:00-5:30 pm

Last Names M-Z 5:30-6:00 pm

**Grades PreK & 1-5 Open House**

Thursday, August 29th: 5:00-6:00 pm

**No School for Labor Day Holiday**

Monday, September 2nd

**First Day of School for Grades K-5**

Tuesday, September 3rd

**First Day of School for PreK**

Wednesday, September 4th

**No School for Kindergarten; Family Visit Day**

Monday, September 9th

### **Picture Days**

Please [sign up](#) for a time to come for student pictures.

Monday, August 19th 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Tuesday, August 20th 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

### **School Supply List**

[Click here for list](#)

### **Fees**

There are NO fees this year!

### **Family Directory**

This optional directory will be used to connect families outside of the school day (Ex: carpooling, invitations, play dates, and other activities). Please [click on this link](#) to enter your information

### **Attendance Matters - *Attend today, achieve tomorrow!***

Good school attendance means:

- Elementary students read well by the end of 3rd grade
- Middle Schoolers pass important classes
- High Schoolers stay on track for graduation
- College Students earn their degrees
- Workers succeed in their jobs

Too many absences, excused or unexcused, can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year - that's 18 missed days, or 2 days per month can knock students off track. Parents are allowed to excuse their children up to **10 days** per school year. Additional days absent would require a note from a medical provider to excuse them.

To report your child's absences, please call the office at 783-4542 or email [nhoffice@onalaskaschools.com](mailto:nhoffice@onalaskaschools.com)

# **School Meals**

## **School Meals**

In the School District of Onalaska, our vision is to provide healthy, nutritious, and appetizing school meals through our school nutrition program. Such meals contribute to a student being ready to learn and do their best. Below is information on what is offered in our School Meals Program.

## **Breakfast**

Breakfast will be available before school at 8:05-8:25 a.m. in the cafeteria. Milk is included with the breakfast meal or may be purchased a la carte for those not participating in the breakfast program.

## **Lunch**

We encourage families to participate in the school lunch program. Children may opt to bring lunch from home. The lunch schedule varies by grade and recess times. The schedule will be communicated with you in the coming weeks. Milk is included in the lunch meal or may be purchased a la carte for those not participating in the school lunch program. To promote healthy nutritional habits, pop and fast food carry-outs are highly discouraged.

## **Snack Break**

Each grade has a snack break that varies in timing according to the child's lunch and recess schedule. The snack break is a part of every child's schedule. Children can bring a snack and healthy beverage that does not need refrigeration or water bottle for that time, as noted on the school supply list. Some classrooms may use a communal or bulk snack system - more information will be provided by your child's teacher. Milk will no longer be offered a third time during the day at snack break as it is available at breakfast and lunch.

## **Applications for Free and/or Reduced Price Meals**

All families are encouraged to complete an application for Free or Reduced meals, found [here](#). Application is important to allow those that qualify to receive meals at a free or reduced rate. Additionally, completing the application allows the district to maximize state and federal funding.

## **Menus**

Menus for breakfast and lunch can be found on our district website: [www.onalaskaschools.com](http://www.onalaskaschools.com). Look for the fork and spoon at the top right of the website or look under the School Nutrition Department webpage.

## **Individual Student Accounts**

Your payments are deposited into individual student accounts; these accounts are used for breakfast, lunch and a la carte milk. The 4-digit code your student uses for the lunch line is their code for payment.

## **Paying into Individual Student Accounts**

- ONLINE – The online payment system, MyPaymentsPlus, allows payments from your checking account or credit card. Go to [www.mypaymentsplus.com](http://www.mypaymentsplus.com) for more information.
- CHECK OR CASH – We accept payments in cash or check. Please write your student's account number on your check, or write it on a slip of paper to send with your cash. You may send the money to any school, and it will be applied to the account you specify.

## PTO Information

Our PTO's mission is to support & enrich educational opportunities for students, build relationships within the Northern Hills community, and foster communication, support, pride, enthusiasm, and excellence for the educational process at Northern Hills Elementary.

Please visit the PTO website at: <https://northernhills.onalaskaschools.com/families/pto>

PTO Officers for 2024-2025 are:

Co-Presidents: Nicole Kannel & Miranda Hammond

Treasurer: Sarah Long

Secretary: Emilee Mielke

Email them at [nhillspto@gmail.com](mailto:nhillspto@gmail.com)



Tickets can be ordered at <https://linktr.ee/nhpto>.

### Northern Hills Drop-Off Process

Structure is needed during drop-off to ensure the safety of our students and families. School hours for K-5 are 8:30am - 3:20pm. Students may not arrive before 8:00am, and the bell will ring to enter the building at 8:25am. Students must be in class by 8:30am.

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#### Time to drop off!

- Students: Open your door and quickly exit the vehicle toward the playground.
- Parents: After students exit, keep traffic moving by swiftly exiting the drop-off area. **DO NOT PARK OR EXIT.**

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#### In the drop-off line

- Students: Unbuckle your seatbelt and gather your school gear. Move towards the passenger side.
- Parents: Give hugs and kisses to your students. **DO NOT PARK OR EXIT**

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#### Waiting area

- Students: Stay buckled.
- Parents: Watch for pedestrians. Follow the flow of traffic. **DO NOT PARK OR EXIT.**

#### Other Reminders

- OK to park!** Please watch for fire hydrants and walking students and families.
- DO NOT PARK,** per posted city signs.
- NO LEFT TURN** into the drop-off area from East Ave N per city signs.

Questions regarding the Northern Hills drop-off process may be directed to Principal Olson.

# **NOTIFICATIONS**

## **Animals on School Property**

We have Therapy dogs at Northern Hills. Therapy dogs are dogs who go with their owners to volunteer in settings such as schools, hospitals, and nursing homes for the purpose of providing affection and comfort to aid in a particular purpose, such as healing, or learning. A therapy dog in a school setting serves the function of assisting students in the learning process while providing comfort and affection to specific students or to a group of students. Therapy dogs are not service dogs. Please ensure that your child's allergy status is updated in your registration so that we do not place your child in a classroom with a therapy dog.

## **ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION**

In compliance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), this is notice that the School District of Onalaska has an Asbestos Management Plan at the school district office. The plan is available for inspection by the public, parents, and district employees. The district performs six-month periodic surveillance of asbestos in June and December and full re-inspections every three years. For more information, please contact the district office.

## **Student Insurance**

The School District of Onalaska does not provide any type of health or accident insurance for injuries incurred by your child.

As a service to students and families, our district is making available a yearly student accident insurance plan at a nominal cost. The district offers this program because of trends in rising family health and dental insurance costs, increased deductibles, co-payments, or lack of health or dental insurance coverage.

If you have other insurance, benefits from this policy can be applied to your deductible or co-pays.

An on-line application must be completed. The direct link for Onalaska is <https://www.1stagency.com/wisconsin/onalaskaschdist/?SchoolId=288>

All questions regarding this coverage should be directed to First Agency, Inc. at (269) 381-6630, or toll free at (800) 243-6298. Further information can be obtained at <http://www.1stagency.com/>