

# HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY ODYSSEY MAGNET



**NOVEMBER 2024  
HAPPY FALL!!**



Highlands/Odyssey  
Elementary

Phone: 920-852-5480

Fax: 920-852-5481

[Highlands/Odyssey](#)

[2024-2025](#)

[Parent Handbook](#)



For easy access to Highlands information, "Like" the Highlands Elementary page on Facebook!

## What's For Breakfast & Lunch



[November Breakfast Menu](#)

[November Lunch Menu](#)



## Free & Reduced Information

Please make sure to fill out a free & reduced application if your family qualifies and return to the school office. By completing the sharing information form, we are able to waive school fees as well. Forms are available [here](#).

## Highlands/Odyssey Picture Retake Day

Thursday, November 14th is Picture Retake Day with Harmann Studios. If you would like your student to participate in retakes, click [this](#) link to request a retake by November 13th. If your student did not have their picture taken on our original picture day, there is no need to fill out the retake request, their picture will automatically be taken. Please call Harmann Studios at 1-800-236-8910 with any questions.





## Highlands Elementary School & Odyssey Magnet School

Kari Krueger, Principal

Michael Dexheimer, Associate Principal

Hello Tigers and Owls!

Thank you to all our families who participated in Parent-Teacher Conferences in October. This was an important time for collaboration around your child's learning, but the most important part is what happens after conferences. Our staff will be working hard to address the concerns you presented, but we ask that our parents/families work with their children on recommendations made by our teachers as well. If we all work together, we will see growth in your child's learning.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to let you know some exciting news in the Krueger household...our family is expanding in January with baby #4! While I am on maternity leave, Karen Brice, a retired principal from AASD, will be serving as our site's lead administrator. Mr. Dexheimer will continue to be in the associate principal role; both Mr. Dexheimer and Mrs. Brice know our district, school, our families, and our students, so I am confident Highlands will be in great hands in my absence. I anticipate returning mid April.

In addition, please ensure your student is dressed for the weather. This is the time of year when we transition to needing winter coats, hats, and mittens...we will soon be needing boots and snow pants too! Please ensure your student has these items and has labeled them with his/her name. If you need assistance with winter gear, please call our office and we will partner with you to help get the items needed.

Please continue to reach out to me and/or your child's teacher with celebrations, questions, or concerns.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Krueger

# DATES TO REMEMBER



**November 14th - Picture Retake Day**

**November 19th - Noodles & Company Fundraiser 4:00-8:00 pm**

**November 20th - Simple Simon Pickup 3:30-5:00 pm**

**November 27th-29th - No School Thanksgiving Break**

**December 6th - No Boys & Girls Club**

**December 9th - Odyssey Open House 6:30-7:15 pm**

**December 12th - 5th Grade Band Concert at Wilson 6:30-7:30 pm**

**December 23rd-January 1st - No School Winter Break**

[Highlands/Odyssey Family Calendar](#)

[District Calendar](#)

## Important Yearly Reminders

- Supervision is available on the playground each day starting at 8:10 am and ending at 3:30 pm. Please do not drop off your student(s) prior to 8:10 unless they are in Boys & Girls Club. Any students that are not picked up by 3:30 will be sent to the office, and a phone call will be made.
- If you are submitting an absence request for your child or leaving a message that they will be late, please also include their lunch choice for the day if they need to order hot lunch.
- If you are picking your child up early, call the office (920-852-5480) when you are about five minutes away. We will call your student down and send them out to your vehicle when you arrive.
- Please make after school plans with your children in the morning before school. This helps avoid interruptions to classrooms while students are learning.
- We have noticed some students bringing their trading cards and other toys from home to school. Please remind them to leave these items at home to avoid any issues at school.
- Accidents happen! Please keep a change of clothes for your student in their backpack, including a pair of socks. This is helpful if they have an accident or get wet or muddy during recess.
- Please keep all parent/guardian or emergency contact information up to date throughout the year. Any updates can be made through the Parent Portal.



## K-3 Literacy Screener

Fall 2024

Wisconsin recently passed an educational law, commonly known as “Act 20.” One of the mandates of that law requires each child in grades 4K-3 to take an assessment called the *aimswebPlus* early reading screener. A screener is an assessment that quickly checks your child’s reading skills to help teachers plan individualized instruction. In our district, we already use a screener, called the Core Phonics Screener, and your child’s teacher may have talked with you about those results recently at conferences. The new state required literacy screener, *aimswebPlus*, is very similar.

### **What skills will be tested on the new state screener?**

The screener will check important literacy skills including alphabet knowledge, letter sound knowledge, phonemic awareness, decoding, and oral vocabulary. The skills are tested differently based on your child’s grade level. Please see the back of this letter for information about these skills and options to be assessed in languages other than English. Over the course of the year, all the assessments on the next page will be given.

### **When will the reading screener take place?**

The *aimswebPlus* early reading screener will occur three times throughout the year: fall, winter, and spring. Currently, this fall is our “training period” for the *aimswebPlus* screener. Our teachers are being trained on how to implement the new screener and will administer one of the screeners to all K-3 students between now and November 30th. The screener is completed 1:1 with each child, just like our current district screener, and offers teachers additional important data on how your child is progressing with his/her reading skills. We will assess again in mid-January and one more time in mid-March. More information will come home prior to each winter and spring assessment, and the results of the winter and spring *aimswebPlus* screener will be shared with you.

### **How can I prepare my child for the early reading screener?**

No special preparation for *aimswebPlus* reading screener is needed. The testing is quick. This fall, our kindergarten and grade one students will complete the Auditory Vocabulary test. Working one-on-one with their teachers, kindergarten and grade one students will point to pictures of words said by their teachers. Our grade two and three students will complete the Oral Reading Fluency test. They will read two passages, one minute each, to their teacher.

If you have any questions or need more information about the early reading screener, please contact your child’s teacher, principal, or our director of elementary education.

Yours in Education ,  
Kari Krueger  
Principal  
[kruegerkari@ascd.k12.wi.us](mailto:kruegerkari@ascd.k12.wi.us)

Yours In Education,  
Carrie Willer, PhD  
Director of Elementary Education  
[willercarrie@ascd.k12.wi.us](mailto:willercarrie@ascd.k12.wi.us)



## Early Reading Skills

2023 Wisconsin Act 20 requires that children are assessed in the early reading skills of alphabet knowledge, letter sound knowledge, phonemic awareness, and decoding. These skills are assessed differently depending on the student's grade level. You can learn more about these important early reading skills below:

- **Alphabet knowledge:** Knowing the names of printed letters.
- **Letter sound knowledge:** Knowing the sounds of printed letters.
- **Phonemic awareness:** Hearing, saying, and manipulating individual sounds in spoken words.
- **Decoding skills:** Connecting sounds to written letters to read printed words.
- **Oral vocabulary:** Understanding the meanings of words when speaking or listening.

## *aimswebPlus* Early Reading Screening Assessments

The *aimswebPlus* reading screeners that measure the skills above are based on a student's grade level. You can learn more about these assessments below:

- **Letter naming fluency (5K):** Measures a student's knowledge of upper- and lower-case letters. Your child will have one minute to say the names of visually presented upper- and lowercase letters that they know.
- **Letter word sounds fluency (4K-1st grade):** Measures a student's letter sound knowledge. Your child will have one minute to say the sounds of visually presented letters, syllables, and words that they know.
- **Initial sounds (4K-5K):** Measures a student's phonemic awareness. Your child will be provided a page with four pictures. Your child will be asked to either point to a picture of a word that matches the initial sound the teacher says or make the initial sound of a word spoken by the teacher. This assessment will take 2-3 minutes.
- **Phoneme segmentation (1st grade):** Measures a student's phonemic awareness. Your child will listen to a word that is spoken by the teacher and then say each sound they hear in the word. This assessment will take 2-3 minutes.
- **Auditory vocabulary (5K-1st grade):** Measures a student's knowledge of words commonly found in 5-year old Kindergarten and Grade 1 reading materials. Your child will match a picture to an orally presented word. This assessment will take 2-4 minutes.
- **Vocabulary (2nd- 3rd grade):** Measures a student's knowledge of the meanings of grade-appropriate words. Your child will choose the meaning of target words by selecting from multiple choice options. This is an untimed, computerized assessment that typically takes 4-7 minutes.
- **Oral reading fluency (1st-3rd grade):** Measures a student's decoding skills. Your child will read two stories aloud, each for one minute.

## Tri-County Dental Program

Tri-County Dental is offering an oral health program for children at Highlands & Odyssey that **DO NOT HAVE DENTAL INSURANCE**. The program includes: a dental exam, cleaning, x-rays, fillings, fluoride treatments and oral health education. To sign-up, click the link below and fill out the survey or hard copies of the form are also available in the office.

[Tri-County Dental Online Registration](#)



## Community Opportunities for Students

Each month the AASD shares local, community opportunities for students. These community opportunities for students include upcoming events and activities such as art and music camps, youth athletics, cultural events, enriching programs, and more. We encourage our families to review these opportunities for students of all ages. Check out the [AASD COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS PAGE](#) for a current list of opportunities.

## 3-5 Year Old Developmental Screenings

AASD offers free developmental screenings for all children between the ages of birth-5 prior to kindergarten. Children must live in the Appleton Area School District. We encourage all families to come to a screening, preferably before attending 4K. Visit this [link](#) for additional details and to schedule your child's screening.

News from the  
School Nurse:

[November Newsletter](#)

[Nov. Newsletter - Spanish](#)

[Nov. Newsletter - Hmong](#)

News from the AASD  
Birth-Five Outreach Program:

[November Newsletter](#)



## Dressing for Cold Weather

As the weather turns cold and snowy, be sure to send proper clothing (winter coat, hats, gloves, snow pants and boots) with your children each day. Students will be going out for recess most days in the winter and having proper outdoor gear each day is important!



## Winter Gear Available

If you are in need of winter gear for your student, please let the office know. We have donations of winter items available for families in need. We also welcome any donations of new or gently used winter gear. Any donations can be dropped off in the office. Thanks!



Please take your student through the lost & found if they are missing anything. All items not claimed by Monday, November 25th at 3:30 pm will be donated. Thanks!

## Drama Day for Grades 1-3 at North!

The North High School theatre department will hold the first of its popular DRAMA DAYS of the school year on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at North High School. The December Drama Day is for students in grades 1-3.

DRAMA DAY is a one-day theatre exploration camp that is planned and taught by North High School theatre students. Children learn about all aspects of theatre, both on stage and backstage through a variety of fun and educational activities. The day ends with a presentation for family and friends on the North stage! Information about how to register can be found [here](#).





# HEALTH GUIDANCE FOR GOING TO SCHOOL

*Showing up to school every day is critical for children's well-being, engagement and learning.*

## MAKE SURE TO SEND CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE:

- Generally healthy and well
- Participating in usual day-to-day activities

## CHILDREN CAN EVEN GO TO SCHOOL IF THEY:

- Have a mild cold, which may include a runny nose and/or cough
- Have eye drainage without fever, eye pain, or eyelid redness
- Have a mild stomachache
- Have lice nits. If live lice are found, the guardian will be instructed to remove live lice after the end of the school day.
  - *Though they are annoying and should be treated, lice are not a reason to exclude a child from school. (This is consistent with the guidance provided by DPI, AAP, CDC, and DHS.)*
- Haven't had a fever for 24 hours and have not taken fever-reducing medicine during that time.

Avoid keeping children at home unless they are too sick to participate. Please see the back of this handout for details. *Note: In most situations, a healthcare provider's note is not needed to return.*



Children may also avoid school due to anxiety. Symptoms may include:

- decreased appetite
- feeling tired
- stomachache
- headache etc.

If you are worried that your child may be suffering from anxiety, talk with your student's Classroom Teacher, the School Nurse, Social Worker, or other School Staff to discuss the challenge and identify what can help your child stay in school.



# REASONS TO KEEP STUDENTS HOME FROM SCHOOL AND WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN BEFORE THEY CAN RETURN

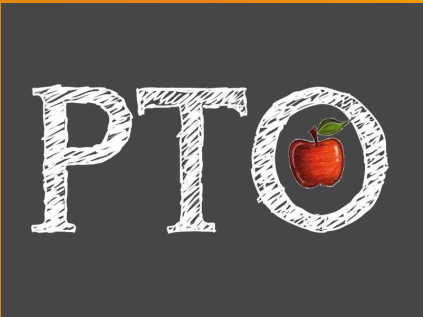
SYMPTOM	WHEN SHOULD YOUR STUDENT STAY HOME?	WHEN CAN YOUR STUDENT RETURN TO SCHOOL?
<b>Fever</b>	They have a fever of 100.0°F (38°C) or higher.	If they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and are feeling better.
<b>Vomiting and/or diarrhea</b>	If they have vomited or have had diarrhea in the last 24 hours. If their stool is watery, they may not make it to the toilet in time.	Once a normal diet is tolerated for 24 hours and they are feeling better.
<b>Cough</b>	If they have a persistent cough with difficulty breathing or with a fever.	Once they are feeling better and any remaining cough is not distracting to themselves or others.
<b>Rash</b>	If a rash has blisters, is draining, is painful, and spreading and or accompanied by a fever it needs to be examined by a health care provider.	Once the rash has no new bumps, has dried, or they have been cleared for return by your health-care provider.
<b>Sore throat</b>	If they have painful swallowing when drinking or eating along with other symptoms such as a fever or rash.	Once they are feeling better. If they were prescribed an antibiotic by your health-care provider, then they can return 24 hours after the first dose, if they are without fever and feeling better.

If you don't know whether to send your child to school or have specific concerns regarding your child's health, contact your child's Healthcare Provider, local urgent care, or the School Nurse.

If your child has a compromised immune system or is at high risk for complications from common illnesses, please talk to your School Nurse about developing a plan with you and your child's Healthcare Provider to keep your child healthy and safe while attending school.

*Information included was collected from Attendance Works, Kaiser Permanente, and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN).*





## SIMPLE SIMON ORDER PICK-UP

Wednesday, November 20th

Where: Multi-Purpose Room

When: 3:30 - 5:15 p.m.



Click [here](#) to select a time to pick up your Simple Simon order on November 20th. To ensure things run smoothly, we ask everyone to sign up for a pickup time. We then fulfill orders by those times.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Wednesday, November 20th

When: 2:00 - 5:30 p.m



Click [here](#) to sign up for a time slot to help with Simple Simon order pickups. Any help would be greatly appreciated!



When: Monday, January 6th

Where: LMC

Time: 3:45-4:45 pm

All are welcome!

## Upcoming Fundraisers

### Noodles & Company

### 4333 Wisconsin Ave.

### Tuesday, November 19th

### 4:00 - 8:00 pm

[English](#) [Spanish](#)

### Chick-fil-A

### 3775 W. College Ave.

### Monday, December 2nd

### 4:30 - 7:00 pm

[English](#)



## BOX TOPS

Easy ways to make a difference for your school.

NOVEMBER 2024 EDITION

### BONUS OFFERS

Offers are valid in a single transaction between 11/01/2024-11/30/2024



Buy 3, Earn 6 on participating Nature Valley products\*



Buy 3, Earn 6 on participating Betty Crocker baking products\*



Buy 3, Earn 6 on participating Tostitos products\*



Buy 2, Earn 4 on participating Cinnamon Toast Crunch products\*



Buy 2, Earn 4 on participating Pillsbury crescent products\*

\*Must submit your receipt within 14 days of purchase. Limit 5 claims per receipt.



THE BIGGEST COOKING DAY OF THE YEAR IS ALMOST HERE!

Take it easy in the kitchen and make family-favorite dishes with Box Tops delicious, timesaving products. See participating products at [btf.com/products](http://btf.com/products)



CONNECT AND EARN 50 BONUS BOX TOPS

WALMART CONNECTED ACCOUNTS

During November 1-30, 2024, you'll earn 50 Bonus Box Tops (\$5) by connecting your Box Tops and Walmart accounts for the first time. It only takes a few minutes and it's easy. Learn more at [BTF.com/Walmart](http://BTF.com/Walmart)

### 3 EASY WAYS TO EARN FOR OUR SCHOOL



SCAN Qualifying receipts in the app



SUBMIT Qualifying digital receipts in the app



CONNECT Your Walmart and Box Tops accounts

SEE PRODUCTS & LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BOX TOPS APP AT [BTF.COM](http://BTF.COM)

DON'T HAVE THE BOX TOPS APP YET? DOWNLOAD IT NOW:










## Please follow these guidelines for dropping off and picking up your student(s):

- You may park in any of the areas on the map shown in **blue**. Remind your student to use the crosswalks and crossing guards when crossing the street and to cross with caution.
- Please **do not park** in areas marked in **red** or **yellow** as they are designated no parking zones or bus zones.
- Areas marked with **blue dashed lines** are designated hug n' go zones. Cars should pull over, students should exit on the passenger side, and the car should exit the area. **Cars should not be in this area for longer than one minute** and cars should never be parked or left unattended.
- **Please note that the canopy doors (Main Entrance) are for students/families with disabilities only and cabs; a parking pass is needed for this area. We have barricades up starting at 8:10 in the morning until the bell rings, and after school until 3:30. Only vehicles with parking passes will be allowed to enter during these times.**

### Parent Parking Procedures

#### Highlands Elementary School

-  Bus Loading Area
-  Parent Pick-up/Drop-off
-  Parent/General Parking
-  Staff Parking
-  No Parking
-  Bike Rack
-  Crossing Guard

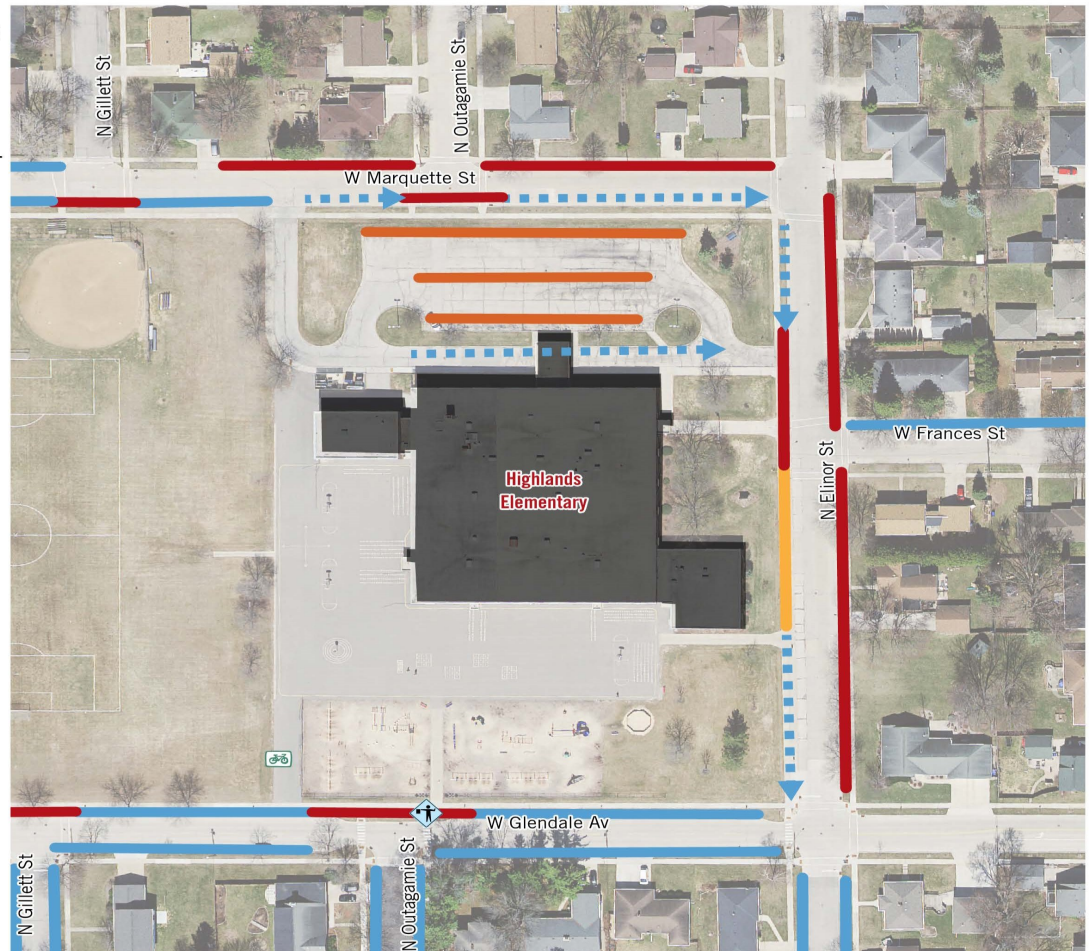


0 100 200  
Feet

Source:  
Base data/imagery provided by Outagamie County 2021.  
SRTS data provided by ECWRPC 2023.

This data was created for use by the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Geographic Information System. Any other use/application of this information is the responsibility of the user and such use/application is at their own risk. East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission disclaims all liability regarding fitness of the information for any use other than for East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission business.

PREPARED AUGUST 2023 BY:



## Safe Routes to School Information & Map

- Click [here](#) for a letter from the Appleton Police Department & Department of Public Works with helpful information on how to get your elementary kids safely to and from school.
- Click [here](#) for a Safe Routes to School walking map for Highlands Elementary.



# The Salvation Army of the Fox Cities 2024 Coats for Kids and Christmas Assistance

## Coats for Kids



November 11-15 | 1 PM - 3 PM  
November 16 | 9 AM - 11 AM

Coats are available for children ages 17 and under.  
No pre-registration required for coats.

The Salvation Army Social Services Center  
130 E North St., Appleton



## Christmas Assistance Registration

Households with children ages 17 and under are eligible for:

Adopt a Family

Online Registration October 14 — 18 or until program is full

Or

Toy Shop (Toys for Tots)

Online Registration November 12 — December 4



TO REGISTER

Use the QR code or go to [www.safoxcities.org](http://www.safoxcities.org)  
follow the link under “Christmas Assistance Programs”



ANGEL TREE

To apply in person, call The Salvation Army front desk after November 12, 2024 at  
(920)734-3324 to set up an appointment.



# The Salvation Army of the Fox Cities 2024 Abrigos Para Niños y Asistencia Navideña



## Abrigos Para Niños

Noviembre 11-15 | 1 PM - 3 PM

Noviembre 16 | 9 AM - 11 AM

Hay abrigos disponibles para niños menores de 17 años.  
No es necesaria preinscripción para abrigos.

El Centro de Servicios Sociales del Ejército de Salvación  
130 E North St., Appleton



## Registro de Asistencia Navideña

Los hogares con niños de 17 años o menos son elegibles para:

Adoptar una Familia

Inscripción en línea del 14 al 18 de Octubre o hasta llenar el programa

o

Juguetería (Juguetes para los más pequeños)

Inscripción en línea del 12 de Noviembre al 4 de Diciembre



PARA REGISTRARSE

Utilice el código QR o vaya a [www.safoxcities.org](http://www.safoxcities.org)  
siga el enlace bajo "Programas de asistencia navideña"



ANGEL TREE

Para presentar la solicitud en persona, llame a la recepción del Ejército de Salvación después del 12 de noviembre de 2024 al (920) 734-3324 para programar una cita.



# The Salvation Army of the Fox Cities 2024 Coats for Kids and Christmas Assistance

## Coats for Kids



November 11-15 | 1 PM - 3 PM  
November 16 | 9 AM - 11 AM

Cov tsho tiv no muaj rau cov menyuam yaus hnuv nyoog qis dua 17 xyoo.  
Tsis tas yuav sau npe ua ntej rau cov tsho loj.

The Salvation Army Social Services Center  
130 E North St., Appleton



## Christmas Assistance Registration



Cov tsev neeg uas muaj menyuam hnuv nyoog 17  
xyoo thiab qis dua tau tsim nyog rau:

Adopt a Family

Kev sau npe online October 14 — 18 los yog kom txog thaum puv

Or

Toy Shop (Toys for Tots)

Kev sau npe online November 12 — December 4

Mus rau npe

Siv QR code lossis mus rau [www.safoxcities.org](http://www.safoxcities.org)  
ua raws li qhov txuas hauv qab “Christmas Assistance Programs”



ANGEL TREE

Txhawm rau thov ntawm tus kheej, hu rau Lub Chaw Pabcuam Kev Ua Haujlwm tomqab lub  
Kaum Ib Hlis 12, 2024 ntawm (920)734-3324 txhawm rau teem sijhawm.