

HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY

ODYSSEY MAGNET



**JANUARY 2025
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

Highlands/Odyssey
Elementary

Phone: 920-852-5480

Fax: 920-852-5481



[Highlands/Odyssey](#)

[2024-2025](#)

[Parent Handbook](#)

What's For Breakfast & Lunch



[January Breakfast Menu](#)

[January Lunch Menu](#)



Classroom Showcase

Join us on Monday, January 13th from 8:30-8:50 am, for our classroom showcase. Visit your child's classroom during this time to see some of the wonderful activities our students do at school!

Highlands/Odyssey Vocal Music Concerts

February 13, 2025 2:30 p.m.

Highlands/Odyssey 4th & 5th Grade and Choir

March 4, 2025 2:30 p.m.

Highlands/Odyssey 2nd and 3rd Grade

March 13, 2025 2:30 p.m.

Highlands Kindergarten and 1st Grade





Highlands Elementary School & Odyssey Magnet School

Kari Krueger, Principal
Michael Dexheimer, Associate Principal

Happy New Year Tigers and Owls!

2025 has arrived! I wish you each a year of health, happiness, and joy!

Being a new year, this is a great time to reflect and set goals. In alignment with this, in the upcoming weeks, our students will be engaging in the mid-year iReady assessment where they will show us what they know in the areas of ELA and math. It is important that students give their best effort so we can truly assess their skills and match them with instruction at their level.

Please mark your calendars for **Monday, January 13th**. At **8:30** until about 8:50 we invite ALL families to join us in their students' classroom for a "showcase" event where you will get to see a completed piece of work from your student and/or engage in an academic task with them. Following, we will have our **second quarter celebration** where we recognize students from each classroom who have met our school-wide expectations. We hope to see you there (and anticipate the showcase/second quarter celebration ending by 9:30ish)!

I look forward to seeing you in February at parent teacher conferences! As a reminder, your date/time from the fall conferences will carry forward to the spring schedule; watch for communication about this from your child's teacher and communicate with them if changes need to be made. At conferences, your child's report card will be printed and reviewed with you. These will be accessible to you via Infinite Campus on January 30th.

Please know that if you have questions, celebrations, or concerns please call, email, or stop in.

Thank you for your partnership in your child's education.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Krueger

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 3rd - No Boys & Girls Club

January 6th - PTO Meeting - 3:45-4:45 pm (LMC)

January 13th - Classroom Showcase - 8:30-8:50 am

January 17th - No School - Staff Development

January 20th - No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 21st - Second Semester Begins/Arbitrary Monday

January 24th - Family Glow Dance (PTO Sponsored) - 6:00-8:00 pm

January 30th - Dairy Queen Fundraiser Night (PTO) - 4:00-8:00 pm

January 30th - Report Cards Visible on Parent Portal - 4:00 pm

February 3rd - PTO Meeting - 6:00-7:00 pm (LMC)



[**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.
- 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.
- During the cold months, we see an increase in Health Room visits due to chapped lips. If you are able to, please send lip balm with your student if they have chapped lips. This helps eliminate time out of the classroom and we do not have a large enough supply for every student.



K-3 Literacy Screener

Jan 2025

Early Reading Skills

2023 Wisconsin Act 20 requires that K-3 students 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 lower-case 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.



K-3 Literacy Screener

Jan 2025

As previously shared, Wisconsin recently passed an educational law, commonly known as “Act 20.” One of the requirements of that law requires each student in grades 4K-3 to take an assessment called the *aimswebPlus* early reading screener. A screener is an assessment that quickly checks a student’s reading skills to determine if additional individualized instruction is needed. Should a student score below the 25 percentile on the screener, the law requires schools to give an additional diagnostic assessment and use the data to create a Personal Reading Plan (PRP) to address the identified literacy skills. Teachers will be contacting you based on the results of the screener. If your student is identified as needing a Personal Reading Plan, it will be sent home on Jan. 30-31 in the progress report envelope. Your child’s teacher will be reviewing this literacy data with you, and if needed, your child’s reading plan, at the upcoming parent-teacher conferences.

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 the student’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.

When will the reading screener take place?

The *aimswebPlus* early reading screener will be administered to all 5K-3 students between January 15-January 29, 2025. Because this is a state law, there is no opt out option. If your child scores below the 25 percentile, your child’s teacher will contact you and administer an additional diagnostic assessment. A personal reading plan will be created for your child.

If your child scores at or above the 25 percentile on the screener, no additional assessment is needed and no personal reading plan will be designed.

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

No special preparation for *aimswebPlus* reading screener is needed.

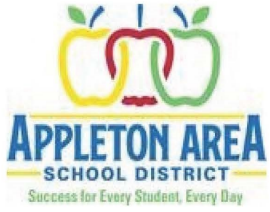
If you have any questions or need more information about the early reading screener, please contact your child’s teacher, principal, or our director of elementary education.

Yours in Education,
Kari Krueger
Principal
kruegerkari@aasd.k12.wi.us

Yours In Education,
Carrie Willer, PhD
Director of Elementary Education
willercarrie@aasd.k12.wi.us



WELCOME TO MEET MY MILESTONES



The Appleton Area School District is excited to offer Meet My Milestones, a free parent/child preschool intervention group designed for 3-4 year-old children in the year prior to 4K. Recognizing that parents are their child's first and most important teachers, this program empowers families to engage in teacher-led activities that promote learning, build friendships, and develop essential school readiness skills. Parents will gain valuable resources and work alongside their child to support developmental milestones in areas such as speaking, listening, thinking, social skills, and movement. Parents must stay with their children and are encouraged to participate in the activities. If you sign up, please plan to attend all 8 sessions, as spots are limited.

Session 1: January 7 – February 27
Session 2: March 4 – May 1
Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays
Times: 8:45-10:00 AM or 10:30-11:45 AM
912 N. Oneida St. Appleton

PROGRAM FEATURES :

- ✓ Parent/Child Class for 3 year olds/8 week sessions
- ✓ Learn about typical 3 year old milestones
- ✓ Help your child meet milestones through play

ENROLL NOW



Scan QR Code
or call 920-832-6109



Kids who play more, pursue more.
100 W. College Avenue
Appleton, WI 54911
(920)734-3226



Brrrrr! It's getting cold out there!

Join us inside where it's warm- at the Building for Kids for a very special Appleton Community 4K -and their 5K Friends- Family Event!

WHEN: Saturday, January 25th, 2025

WHERE: Building for Kids

TIME: 5:00-8:00 PM

WHO:

AASD Appleton Community 4K students & their families
AND

AASD Kindergarten students & their families

COST: FREE!

RSVP: community-4K@aasd.k12.wi.us

OR (920)852-5600, option 1

*Please include the name of your 4K site/elementary school & the number of people expected to attend.



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:
[January Newsletter](#)



News from the AASD
Birth-Five Outreach
Program:
[January Newsletter](#)





The mission of Appleton Community 4K is to maximize the learning of 4 year olds!

Appleton Community 4K builds a lifelong love of learning through creativity, curiosity, problem-solving, and exploration.

Why 4K? Because their learning journey starts now!

AASD prides itself on providing our youngest learners with the opportunity to participate in a quality early learning program in a play-based model. Appleton's 4K develops the whole child by balancing critical early reading, writing, and math skills, with the social and emotional skills necessary to be successful in school and throughout their lives.

Who can enroll?

Appleton Community 4K is open to any student who will turn 4 years old on or before September 1st.

How do we enroll?

Online enrollment begins Monday, February 10th, 2025. Watch the AASD and 4K website for more details as they become available:

4k.aasd.k12.wi.us/our-school/enrollment

How can I learn more about Appleton Community 4K?

- Check out our 4K Partner Sites: 4k.aasd.k12.wi.us/appleton-community-4k-partner-sites
- Review our Frequently Asked Questions: 4k.aasd.k12.wi.us/our-school/faqs
- Watch our 4K Informational Videos: 4k.aasd.k12.wi.us/our-school/enrollment
- During the month of January, we welcome you to contact the 4K sites you are interested in learning more about. They'd love to talk to you and offer you a visit!
- Call the Appleton Community 4K office at (920)852-5600!



Find more information here!
¡Encuentra más información aquí!
Yog koj xav paub ntiv txog kev kawm
ntawv hauv 4K mus ntawm no!



PTO

PTO Meeting

When: Monday, January 6th

Where: LMC

Time: 3:45-4:45 pm

All are welcome!

Family Glow Dance

Friday, January 24th

6:00-8:00 pm

Highlands Gym

Upcoming Fundraisers

Dairy Queen Family Night

1813 N. Richmond St.

Thursday, January 30th

4:00 - 8:00 pm

Chipotle

111 N. Mall Dr.

Saturday, March 1st

4:00 - 8:00 pm



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
Totino's 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 btfe.com/products



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 BTFE.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 BTFE.COM

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





Winter

CLOTHING DRIVE



DECEMBER 11 2024 - FEBRUARY 28 2025

Appleton Area School District Winter Clothing Drive

We are collecting new winter items for AASD families in need

Collection Dates

December 11, 2024- February 28, 2025
between the hours of 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

**Donations are only accepted on days
when school is in session.*

Drop-Off Location

Welcome Center
Family and Community Engagement Office
2701 N Oneida Street,
Appleton WI

Items Needed

- Gloves
- Boots and Shoes
- Warm Hats and Headbands
- Coats and Jackets
- Snow Pants
- Warm/Heavy Duty Socks

**Please consider donating waterproof and
warm items to ensure our students stay
comfortable during the winter months*

Questions? Please contact: Julie Bargholtz at bargholtzjulie@aasd.k12.wi.us

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!

HIGHLANDS & ODYSSEY BRING YOUR FAMILY TO PE



**LEARN AND BE ACTIVE WITH YOUR STUDENT FOR THEIR 30
MINUTE PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASS WITH MR. VERHEYEN
OR MR. HEURKENS DURING THE WEEK OF FEB. 10-14, 2025**

***SIGN UP WITH THE QR
CODE OR WITH THIS LINK***



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.



DEPARTMENT OF
**PARKS &
RECREATION**

FEE WAIVER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ABOUT

Our fee waiver scholarship program is designed to give City of Appleton youth the opportunity to participate in recreation programs regardless of their financial status.

ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a City of Appleton Resident
- Must be 17 and under
- Qualify for an area school district free or reduced lunch program or other government assistance program.

FEE WAIVER DETAILS

- Fee waiver is good for youth programs/leagues and youth summer swim passes. *(Note: some programs may not be eligible.)*
- Eligible participants receive \$100 stipend per calendar year.

CONTACT

- 📞 920.832.5905
- ✉️ aprd@appleton.org
- 🌐 appletonparkandrec.org

SCAN FOR MORE INFO
AND TO ACCESS
APPLICATION



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

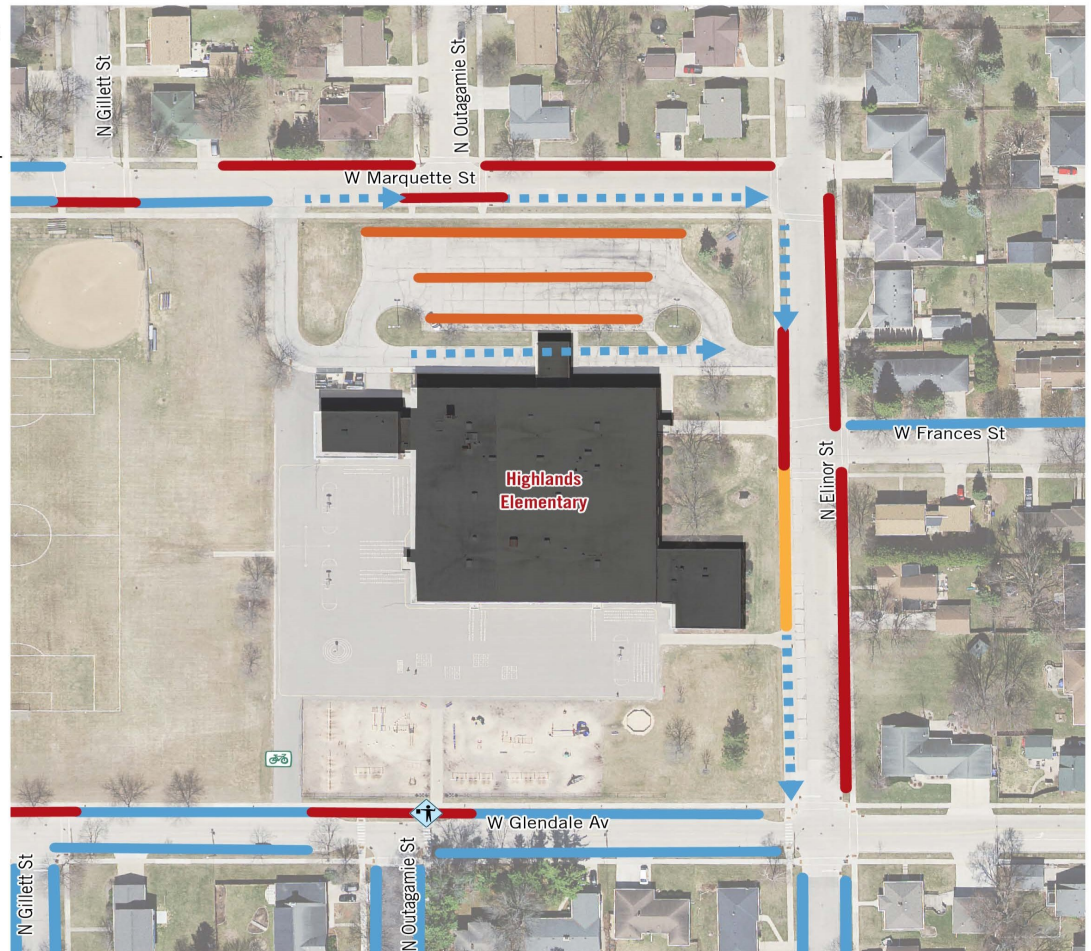


0 100 200
Feet

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.