

# HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY ODYSSEY MAGNET



**MARCH 2025  
HAPPY SPRING!!**

Highlands/Odyssey  
Elementary

Phone: 920-852-5480

Fax: 920-852-5481



[Highlands/Odyssey](#)

[2024-2025](#)

[Parent Handbook](#)

## What's For Breakfast & Lunch



[March Breakfast Menu](#)

[March Lunch Menu](#)



## Highlands Vocal Music Concert

March 13th at 2:45 p.m.

Highlands Kindergarten and 1st Grade



## Highlands/Odyssey Band & Orchestra Concert

April 29th at 1:15 p.m. or 2:15 p.m.

## Quarter 3 TOPS Celebration & "Soar to Success" Family Event

Our Quarter 3 TOPS Celebration will take place on Friday, March 14th at 2:00 pm. You will be notified by your student's teacher if your child is being recognized this quarter.

Immediately following our TOPS Celebration (around 2:30), we invite all families to our "Soar to Success" event. You are invited to your child's classroom to start a goal setting project encouraging Highlands Tigers and Odyssey Owls to SOAR to the end of the year!



## Highlands Elementary School & Odyssey Magnet School

Kari Krueger, Principal

Michael Dexheimer, Associate Principal

Dear Parents and Families,

I hope this letter finds you well as we welcome March and the arrival of warmer weather. I am truly enjoying my time here at Highlands/Odyssey, working alongside our incredible students and staff. This school is special, and the community here is one of care, collaboration, and commitment to each child's success.

On a personal note, Mrs. Krueger stopped by earlier this week with baby Elias. Both mom and baby are doing wonderfully, and Mrs. Krueger is enjoying this precious time with her family. We look forward to welcoming her back to our school family in mid-April.

As we move into the month, it's hard to believe that spring break is just around the corner! We have an exciting and busy few weeks ahead. Students in grades 3-6 will begin their state FORWARD testing, which is an important part of our academic year. Each day of learning is vital, and we are grateful for the continued partnership with you, our parents and guardians, as we support your child's growth and success.

Thank you again for your dedication to your child's education. Together, we are making a positive impact on their future!

Sincerely,

Karen Brice  
Interim Principal

# **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**March 6th - Odyssey Interim Showcase - 6:30-7:15 pm**

**March 7th - No Boys & Girls Club**

**March 10th - Yearbook Orders Due**

**March 10th - PTO Meeting - 3:45-4:45 pm (LMC)**

**March 11th - HundredX Fundraiser Ends**

**March 13th - Volunteer Appreciation - 2:15-2:45 pm**

**March 13th - Music Concert - Highlands K & Gr. 1 - 2:45 pm**

**March 14th - “Soar to Success” Family Event - 2:30 pm**

**March 18th - Multicultural Night - 5:00-7:00 pm**

**March 20th - Elementary Arbitrary Friday**

**March 21st-March 30th - No School Spring Break**

**April 4th - No Boys & Girls Club**

**April 4th - Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser (PTO Sponsored)**



[\*\*Highlands/Odyssey Family Calendar\*\*](#)

[\*\*District Calendar\*\*](#)

## **Important Yearly Reminders**

- We are looking for donations of boys and girls pants to keep in our Health Room for student accidents. Donations can be dropped off in the office. Thank you!
- 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.
- 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 haven't already, please be sure to pay your child's school fees for the 2024-2025 school year. You can pay fees online with a debit/credit card through the Parent Portal or in the office with cash or check.



# ***Highlands Elementary School***

Kari Krueger, Principal  
Michael Dexheimer, Associate Principal

2037 N. Elinor St.  
Appleton, WI 54911

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March 3rd, 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Wisconsin students in Grades 3-5 will be participating in the Wisconsin Forward Exam this Spring. Our school is scheduled to take the Forward assessment between March 17th, 2025 and April 25th, 2025. Students will not be testing on all days during this testing window. There are designated days for each grade level to take specific portions of the overall state assessment.

The Forward assessment tests students in the areas of Math, Reading, Language Arts and Writing. Students in grade 4 will also be tested in the area of Social Studies and Science. It is very important that your son or daughter be in school during this time. Students not in school on the scheduled testing days will be scheduled for a makeup test prior to the close of the testing window. Please make every effort to avoid scheduling appointments for your child(ren) during this time.

Please encourage your son or daughter to take the test seriously and to do their best. The results of these tests help us make decisions on how we can continue to offer strong educational programming for our students.

Enclosed is an [\*Informational Brochure for Families\*](#) which gives more information about the assessment including its purpose, what scores will be provided, and how the scores will be used. Their performance on the Wisconsin Forward Exam will not affect any of their current grades.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Dexheimer at (920) 852-5480 or email at [dexheimermich@aasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:dexheimermich@aasd.k12.wi.us)

Thank you,

*Michael Dexheimer*

Michael Dexheimer- Associate Principal





You can now order a Highlands & Odyssey yearbook through Harmann Studios. You can order by clicking [here](#) and entering the school specific code HIODYB. ALL YEARBOOK ORDERS ARE DUE by MONDAY, MARCH 10TH. After this date, prices will increase and upgrades will no longer be available to purchase. Click [here](#) for additional information.

### Summer School

Summer school registration will be done online via the Parent Portal and will open on April 14th. Additional information is available on the [AASD Summer School webpage](#). See the links below for information and course offerings for Highlands and Wilson.

[Highlands](#)

[Wilson](#)

### 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.

### Fang's Reading Club

Our school is participating in Fang's Reading Club, with the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers. The program will run from Monday, March 3rd through Friday, April 25th and the Highlands/Odyssey Family Night will be on Friday, May 30th.

See the link below for additional details.



[Fang's Reading Club Program Information](#)



### Lost & Found

Our lost and found area is overflowing! Please take your student through the lost and found if they are missing anything. All items not claimed before spring break will be donated. Thanks!



Highlands Odyssey Elementary



# Multicultural Night

Storytelling



Art work by: Elsbeth Van Houten and Marin Padgett

March 18th, 2025

5:00-7:00 PM | Highlands/Odyssey Gym

Join us for:  
Performances  
Food  
Activities  
Raffle prizes



Highlands Odyssey Elementary



# Multicultural Night

Storytelling



Art work by: Ahana Bhatia

Join us for a night of fun!

For questions, please contact: [leelillie@asds.k12.wi.us](mailto:leelillie@asds.k12.wi.us)

We will continue to accept:

Donations from businesses for raffle prizes

Performers

Volunteers to run activities for booths

Deadline to accept will be: February 15th, 2025

## Multicultural Night on March 18th from 5-7pm

We are reaching out to families who own businesses to consider donating items or gift certificates to be used as prizes during the event. Not only will your generosity help make the event a success, but it's also a great opportunity to promote your business to the families in our school community!

Prizes could include anything from your business, such as:

- Gift cards or certificates
- Products or services
- Discounts or special offers

**How it works:** Attendees will earn tickets by visiting each booth, and they can enter their tickets for a chance to win one of the amazing prizes donated by our community members.

If you're interested in donating, please contact Alyssa Dalton at (920)852-5480 x81339 or [daltonalysa@asds.k12.wi.us](mailto:daltonalysa@asds.k12.wi.us) to arrange the details by Friday, March 7th. We truly appreciate any contribution, and your support will help make this celebration even more special for everyone.

If you are still interested in participating and volunteering your talents through performance, engaging games, or telling your story please consider filling out this [form](#).

Please RSVP [here](#) if you plan to attend this event, so we can be sure to have the right amount of food and other materials. Thanks!



## Upcoming Fundraisers

**Buffalo Wild Wings**

**Friday, April 4th**

[English](#)

## PTO Meeting

**When: Monday, March 10th**

**Where: LMC**

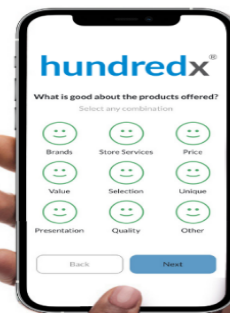
**Time: 3:45-4:45 pm**

**All are welcome!**

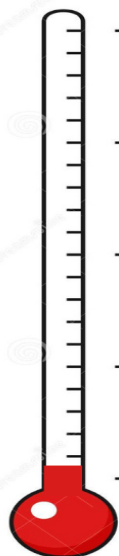
Highlands and  
Odyssey PTO  
**GIVE WITHOUT  
SPENDING!**

February 10 - March 11

Highlands/Odyssey PTO has teamed up with Hundredx Causes for a new way to earn money for our school at no cost to you!



### SCHOOLWIDE GOAL



— \$5,000  
— \$4,000  
— \$3,000  
— \$2,000  
— \$1,000

From February 10 - March 11, each time you complete an online survey with Hundredx, \$1.60 goes to Highlands/Odyssey PTO! Choose from over 3,000 companies/brands. Surveys are about 4-5 questions and only take 1-2 minutes to complete. You can personally create up to \$120 of value if you complete 75 surveys. Ask your friends and family to participate too.



Text "SCHOOL"  
to 90412  
to sign up  
or use the QR  
code

Complete 75 surveys to be  
entered into a drawing  
for a gift card!

\*Message and data rates may apply. By texting "90412" you agree to receive SMS messages from HundredX Causes (HXC). Even though HXC makes no sales to you, the law requires HXC to disclose that your consent is not a condition of purchase.

**hundredx**

# EARN CASH FOR SCHOOLS WITH BOX TOPS

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

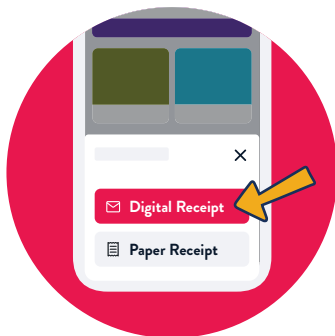
For over 25 years, Box Tops for Education has given families an easy way to earn for schools with products they already buy. Today, you can find hundreds of participating products throughout the store — and all you need is the Box Tops app.



## HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



**SCAN**  
qualifying receipts  
in the app



**SUBMIT**  
qualifying digital  
receipts in the app



**CONNECT**  
your Walmart and  
Box Tops accounts



### ONLINE SHOPPERS CAN EARN WITH BOX TOPS, TOO!

Whether you order groceries for delivery or pickup, shop through your store's app, request an email receipt at checkout or shop with your Walmart connected account, you can earn for your school no matter where you shop.

SEE PRODUCTS & LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THE BOX TOPS APP AT [BTFE.COM](https://www.btf.com)

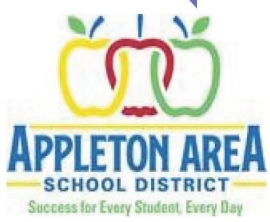
DON'T HAVE THE BOX TOPS  
APP YET? DOWNLOAD IT NOW:







# 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. Onelda 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



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](https://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](https://4k.aasd.k12.wi.us/appleton-community-4k-partner-sites)
- Review our Frequently Asked Questions: [4k.aasd.k12.wi.us/our-school/faqs](https://4k.aasd.k12.wi.us/our-school/faqs)
- Watch our 4K Informational Videos: [4k.aasd.k12.wi.us/our-school/enrollment](https://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!



## 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:

[March Newsletter](#)

[Mar. Newsletter - Spanish](#)

[Mar. Newsletter - Hmong](#)

News from the AASD Birth-Five Outreach Program:

[March Newsletter](#)





## Hygiene Drive Kicks Off February 24!

We are proud to share that this year we have district-wide participation in the annual Fox Cities “Help for the Homeless” hygiene drive organized through The Family Radio Network! All of our schools will be collecting NEW hygiene and cleaning items from February 24th to March 14th. Please send your donations to school with your student, or stop by to drop them off in the Help for the Homeless collection box located at your child’s school by Friday, March 14th.

Donations received at our AASD collection sites are used within our AASD school community to stock our Basic Needs Care Closet for students/families in need. These donations are also the primary source of hygiene products provided to students and families experiencing homelessness. Our AASD homeless support program provides services and support to over 600 families each school year. Our school district collection efforts also contribute to the greater Fox Valley area crisis agencies.

The most frequently needed items are laundry detergent, hand soap, dish soap, shampoo/conditioner (especially children’s products), cleaning supplies, toilet paper, and deodorant.

\*Financial donations can also be made (cash, checks made out to “The Family” with “Help for the Homeless-AASD” written in the memo line or online [Help For The Homeless-The Family](#)).

The goal of the drive is to supply a year’s worth of products to each AASD school site and our district homeless support program. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

*When a family is experiencing homelessness and in survival mode, a kind helping hand means the world to them. Giving a family in crisis a Care Package with diapers, bath and shower supplies, toothpaste and toothbrushes, laundry soap, and toilet paper can allow them to feel supported and able to take care of their families needs. Sometimes parents struggle with the feeling that there is “no one to help us” and having a Care Closet in our school district allows me to help in a tangible, immediate way. Watching little kids’ eyes light up having their own new toothbrush and fun bath soap and knowing their mom can wash their clothes for school at the laundromat reflects how much this community project impacts the lives of families in crisis.- Molly McGregor, Homeless Liaison, Appleton Area School District*



## Highlands Elementary School & Odyssey Magnet School

Kari Krueger, Principal

Michael Dexheimer, Associate Principal

Mar 3, 2025

Dear Families,

My name is Jean McCann. Before returning to teaching 5 years ago, I was the Wisconsin State Representative for Sport Stacking. I traveled the state teaching teachers and students how to Speed Stack, sharing its many benefits (both physical and mental), and encouraging participation for fun and/or competition. This year, I will be forming and coaching a Speed Stacking Club for grades 2-5..

What are the benefits of speed stacking? Kids develop better hand-eye coordination, quickness, and ambidexterity. A university study by Dr. Brian Udermann (UW Lacrosse) confirms that stacking improves eye-hand coordination and reaction time by up to 30 percent. Sport stacking helps students develop bilateral proficiency (equal performance on both sides of the body). By increasing bilateral proficiency, a student develops a greater percentage of the right side of the brain, which houses awareness, focus, creativity, and rhythm. Stacking helps train the brain for sports and other activities where using both hands is important, such as playing a musical instrument or using the computer. Sequencing and patterning are also elements of sport stacking, which can increase reading and math skills.

Our club will be registered with USA Sport Stacking. We will learn individual and team stacking patterns as we progress and become more proficient at speed stacking. We may even have some stackers who want to enter competitions around the state. Maybe we'll have a stacker qualify for the Junior Olympics!

To explore more about speed stacking, go to [www.speedstacks.com](http://www.speedstacks.com)

If your child is interested in becoming a member of our Speed Stacking Club, please fill out and return the attached permission slip. We will be limiting the first 8 weeks to 30 stackers. If you have any questions, please contact Jean McCann at [mccannjean@asds.k12.wi.us](mailto:mccannjean@asds.k12.wi.us).

**What:** Speed Stacking Club

**When:** Tuesday's After School beginning April 8th and ending May 27th from 3:30-4:30 pm

**Where:** Highlands/Odyssey Main Gym

**Helpful Notes:** Speed Stacking Club will be limited to 30 participants (first come, first serve) for the first 8-week session. We will run another 8-week session in the fall. Stackers of all abilities are welcome to participate! You will be contacted via email if your child is in the first 30!



# Speed Stacking Club



Please check one of the following and sign on the line below and return by **Tuesday, April 1, 2025.**

Stacker Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the following that applies:

\_\_\_\_\_ I give permission for my child to participate in **Speed Stacking Club** on Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30 beginning on April 8th and ending on May 27th

\_\_\_\_\_ My child will be picked up by \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

\_\_\_\_\_ My child will walk home at 4:30

----- My child has their own speed stack set including mat and timer

----- My child does not have a speed stack set

We will have equipment available during our club times, but will not be sending it home to practice with. If your child would like to have a set of their own, I highly recommend purchasing an authentic set from Speed Stacks (also available on Amazon). You can purchase a complete set which includes a set of stacks, a timer, a mat, and a bag.

Any allergies or health concerns we should be aware of? \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Best contact number \_\_\_\_\_

## 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.



# Monthly Newsletter

## March 2025



### What is the Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Program?

The FFVP provides students with a healthy fruit or vegetable and is free to all elementary school students! FFVP is provided everyday, but not during lunch or breakfast. The program features a variety of unique, and sometimes new, fruits and vegetables to students that they may otherwise not have had the opportunity to sample. To find out more about the program, please check out WI's FFVP webpage: [dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/programs/fresh-fruit-vegetable](https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/programs/fresh-fruit-vegetable). 🍌🍓🥦🍎



## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SPOTLIGHT

What's on the menu this month?



### Daikon Radish

Daikon radishes have a subtly sweet flavor and are milder than peppery radishes. They are a good source of vitamin C. White radish and winter radish are just a couple names the Daikon radish is known to be called. ([google.com/search](https://google.com/search))

### Grapefruit

Grapefruits are bitter, slightly sweet and juicy. Grapefruits grow best in subtropical climates like Florida, California and Texas. Grapefruit are packed with vitamin C and fiber. They grow on trees that can reach 45 feet tall. ([dpi.wi.gov](https://dpi.wi.gov))



## Recipe Highlight

### Fruit Pizza

#### Ingredients

Whole Grain Flatbread, 6x6  
2 tbsp Fresh Blueberries  
1/4 c Fresh Banana, Diced  
1/4 c Fresh Strawberries, Diced  
1 tbsp 100% Orange Juice  
1 tsp Granulated Sugar  
1/4 tsp Vanilla Extract  
2 oz Low Fat, Reduced Sugar, Vanilla Yogurt  
1/4 tsp Ground Cinnamon



Place flatbreads onto a sheet pan with parchment paper.  
Bake at 350 degrees F for 6 minutes.  
Remove flatbreads from oven and let cool completely before topping.  
Wash all fruit thoroughly (bananas before you peel them) and allow to air dry.  
After fruit is washed and dried, cut to medium/small pieces and gently toss with orange juice in a mixing bowl.  
Combine yogurt, sugar and vanilla in mixing bowl and mix until smooth.

To assemble pizzas:  
Lay down pre-baked flatbread and spread 1/4 cup of yogurt sauce evenly over the flatbread surface.  
Top with 1/2 cup of the fruit mixture (drained).  
Sprinkle with 1/2 tsp of cinnamon.

## Fun Facts

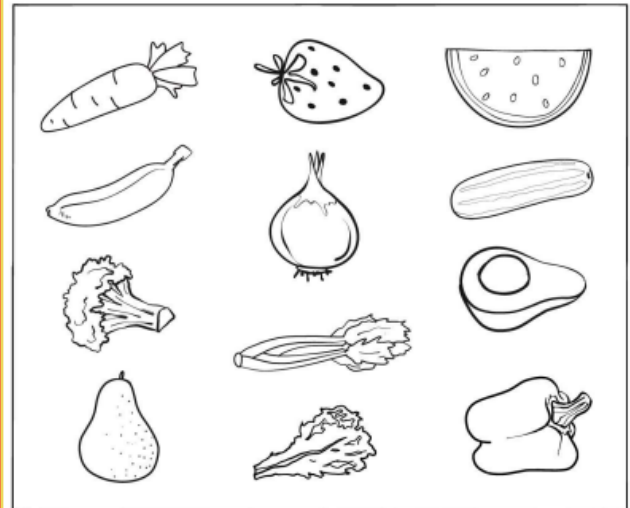
- Apples are a good source of fiber and antioxidants.
- There are over 20 varieties of grapefruit grown in the United States.
- Honeydew melons are the sweetest of all melons. Melons are related to squash and cucumbers.
- Daikon radishes are very low in calories and a good source of Vitamin C.

## Fun with fruits and veggies

Have some fun with fruits and veggies and check out the game below.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Circle all the fruits. Cross out all the vegetables.  
Count the fruits and vegetables and write them down.



How many fruits?

How many vegetables?

[www.cleverlearner.com](https://www.cleverlearner.com)

## Why should you eat fruits and vegetables?

Most fruits are low in fat, sodium and calories.  
Fruits do not have cholesterol.  
Vitamin A keeps eyes and skin healthy and helps protect against infections. (USDA MyPlate)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.  
Info found at <https://dpi.wi.gov>




# March

2025

**FFVP**

This is an equal opportunity provider

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Snack Apple 	4 Orange Wedges 	5 Red Grapes 	6 Honeydew 	7 Watermelon Radish 	8
9	10 Snack Apple 	11 Tangelos 	12 Pineapple 	13 Daikon Coins 	14 Grapefruit 	15
16	17 Snack Apple 	18 Clementines 	19 Pineapple/Red Grapes 	20 Mixed Fruit 	21 NO SCHOOL	22
23	24 	25 	26 	27 	28 	29
30	31 					