

Northern Hills News
2025-2026
Home of the Hawks!



Soon we will begin the 2025-2026 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.

As you may already know, I will be transitioning to a new role within the district, as the Director of Instructional Services. While it is bittersweet to leave Northern Hills, I will still be supporting and working with Northern Hills staff in my new role, and your children will still see me around from time to time. Our Superintendent, Mr. Barton, is working on finding an amazing leader for Northern Hills and will keep you informed throughout the process.

School is 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!

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 a few staffing changes. Here are the new staff that have been hired at this point:

- Nick Peterson, Special Education Teacher
- Phil Schollmeier, Alternative Special Education Teacher for OnaPALS

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, and Mr. Barton will keep you updated on your new principal.

It's going to be a great year!

Lalisha Olson, Director of Instructional Services

Returning Student Registration

Families will once again use the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) to access student back to school registration forms. This process was sent via email in May - you might have already completed this! Contact the office if you are unsure if this is complete.

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 20th

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 21st: 5:00-6:00 pm

First Day of School for Grades K-5

Monday, August 25th

First Day of School for PreK

Tuesday, August 26th

No School for Kindergarten; Family Visit Day

Friday, August 29th

No School for Labor Day Holiday

Monday, September 1st

Picture Days

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

Monday, August 11th 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Tuesday, August 12th 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

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 is no longer 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 or by clicking 'Menus' at the top of any district page.

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 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 Board for 2025-2026 is comprised of:

Jamie Wagner, Emilee Mielke, Sarah Long, Catherine Beatty, Anna Peterson



Email them at nhillsppto@gmail.com

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

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/>