



2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

READY, SET, SCHOOL

Monona Grove School District Official Back-to-School Guide



Monona Grove Families,

As we look ahead to the 2025–26 school year, I'm filled with excitement and gratitude to begin my second year as Superintendent of this incredible school district. The start of a new year always brings fresh energy, new opportunities, and the chance to reconnect as a school community.

This guide was created to help make your summer planning a little easier and ensure your family feels prepared and confident heading into the fall. Inside, you'll find important dates, school-specific details, checklists, and helpful resources all in one place. Whether you're a returning family or new to Monona Grove, we hope this will

be your go-to reference for a smooth and successful start.

We can't wait to welcome your students back! Until then, have a safe, restful, and joyful summer.

DR. TANYA L. FREDRICH
SUPERINTENDENT



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KEY DATES



AUGUST 11

District Wide Photo Day at MG21

AUGUST 21

District Wide Photo Day at Granite Ridge School

MID-AUGUST

Teacher Assignments Available within Infinite Campus Parent Portal

MID-AUGUST

Secondary Schedules Available

SEPTEMBER 2

First Day of School

4K Staggered Start - [TPS Info](#) | [WS Info](#)

NOVEMBER 26-28

No School (Thanksgiving Break)

DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 2

No School (Winter Break)

MARCH 30 - APRIL 3

No School (Spring Break)

JUNE 4

MG21 Senior Graduation

JUNE 7

MGHS Graduation

JUNE 11

Last Day of School



[View our website for the full calendar](#) (including a PDF printable!)

BACK TO SCHOOL CHECKLIST



- Verify and/or update your contact information in [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#)
- Returning students: charge Chromebook (grades 6-12)
- Pay school fees in [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#)

Consumable (Per Student)

*Eligible for a fee waiver with application

Grade	Fee
4K	\$30
K-12	\$37

- Set up school nutrition accounts (Infinite Campus Parent Portal)
- Sign up for school photo day - [Sign up for a photo session online](#) - siblings are welcome to attend the same time slot at either location!
- Attend your school's back-to-school event
- Review your school's handbook
- Get your school supplies
- Review [annual notices](#)
- Complete the [Student Handbook Acknowledgement](#)
- Complete the [Directory Data Release Form](#)

Watch for more checklists throughout this newsletter!

SCHOOL SPECIFIC INFORMATION

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



TAYLOR PRAIRIE
SCHOOL

Grade Levels: 4K-KG in Cottage Grove

Principal: Emily Foster

Back-to-School Night: August 26 from
3:15-5:15pm

School Hours: 7:45am-2:50pm

4K AM: 7:45-10:35am

4K PM: 12-2:50pm

Contact / Attendance: (608) 839-8515;
tps.attendance@mgschools.net



[Click for
Handbook](#)



[Click for
Supply List](#)



COTTAGE GROVE
SCHOOL

Grade Levels: 1-2 in Cottage Grove

Principal: Jesse Starr

Back-to-School Night: August 27 from
3:30-5:30pm

School Hours: 7:45am-2:50pm

Contact / Attendance: (608) 839-4576;
cgs.attendance@mgschools.net



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Supply List](#)



GRANITE RIDGE
SCHOOL

Grade Level: 3-5 in Cottage Grove

Principal: Reed Foster

Associate Principal: Allison Friberg

Back-to-School Night: August 26 from
3:45-5:45pm

School Hours: 8:00am-3:05pm

Contact / Attendance: (608) 839-8980;
grs.attendance@mgschools.net



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WINNEQUAH
SCHOOL

Grade Level: 4K-5 in Monona

Principal: John Hagen

Associate Principal: Dan Hillgartner

Back-to-School Night: August 28 from
3:30-5:30pm

School Hours: 7:45am-2:50pm

4K AM: 7:45-10:35am

4K PM: 12-2:50pm

Contact / Attendance: (608) 221-7677;
ws.attendance@mgschools.net



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Handbook](#)



[Click for
Supply List](#)

SCHOOL SPECIFIC INFORMATION

SECONDARY SCHOOLS



GLACIAL DRUMLIN
SCHOOL

Grade Levels: 6-8 in Cottage Grove & Monona

Principal: Kristen Langer

Associate Principals: Emily Koch & Tyler Zaspel

Back-to-School Night: August 27 from 3:30-5:30pm

Last names beginning with A-L: 3:30-4:30

Last names beginning with M-Z: 4:30-5:30

School Hours: 8:00am-3:13pm

Contact / Attendance: (608) 839-8437;
gds.attendance@mgschools.net



[Click for Handbook](#)



[Click for Supply List](#)

Grade Levels: 6-12 in Cottage Grove & Monona

School Director: Rebecca Fox-Blair

Back-to-School Night: August 27 from 6:00-7:00pm

School Hours:

Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Friday:

9:00am-3:10pm

Wednesday: 9:00am-1:00pm

Contact / Attendance: (608) 316-1924



[Click for Handbook](#)



[Click for Supply List](#)

Grade Level: 9-12 in Cottage Grove & Monona

Principal: Mitchal McGrath

Associate Principal: Jason Kling,
Melissa Rosol & Joe Schneider

New to MG Orientation: August 5 from 4-5:30pm

Back To School Night: September 10
from 6:30-8:30pm

School Hours: 8:15am-3:30pm

Contact / Attendance: (608) 316-1393;
mghs.attendance@mgschools.net



[Click for Handbook](#)



Students receive supply lists when they run their schedules over the first two days of school.



MG21
Liberal Arts Charter School



MONONA GROVE
HIGH SCHOOL



ATTENDANCE



Our school staff is excited to welcome you back for a year full of learning, connection, and new opportunities! As we begin this school year, we want to remind families that regular school attendance is key to student success.

Under Wisconsin Statute 118.15(3)(c), **families may excuse their child from school for up to 10 days per school year** for personal reasons, including illness, **without requiring medical or other official documentation.** These absences must be submitted in writing before the absence whenever possible. We also encourage students to stay on top of any missed classwork.

For medical appointments, please provide documentation such as a doctor's note, appointment confirmation, or MyChart message. These can be sent to the school's attendance email or shared with the health office. Medically documented absences do not count toward the 10-day limit.

Starting the year with consistent attendance helps students:

- Reduce stress
- Build friendships and strong teacher connections
- Stay on track academically

For more details, visit the [attendance webpage](#).

We are committed to making our schools safe, healthy, and supportive places for all students. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns—we're here to help make this a successful school year for your child.

Contact

How to help your student succeed

Christa Foster

Director of Student Services

Kayla Barnes-Patrick

MGHS Social Worker

Elizabeth Caucutt

GRS Social Worker

Andrea Fresen

MG21 Social Worker

Molly Hartshorn

GDS Social Worker

Leah Kutschke

WS Social Worker

Serena Mickelson

TPS & CGS Social Worker



SCHOOL NUTRITION

	4K-5	6-8	9-12
Breakfast	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$2.00
Lunch	\$3.00	\$3.75	\$4.00
Milk (per carton)	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50

SCHOOL NUTRITION CHECKLIST

- Add money to your student's school nutrition account in Infinite Campus
Step by step instructions on: [how to add money to school nutrition account](#)
- Set up recurring payment / low balance alerts in Infinite Campus
Step by step instructions on: [How to set up recurring payments](#) / [how to set up low balance alerts](#)
- Fill out a free and reduced application
Applications to qualify for free and reduced-price meals must be filled out each year. Eligibility not only gives you access to discounted meals but also enables our District to receive more educational funding based on our eligibility rates. Students also receive waivers on numerous other fees. It is important to fill out an application if you believe you may qualify.
[Applications are available on the School Nutrition web page.](#)
- Access breakfast and lunch menus
Monthly menus are added at least one week prior to the start of the month on our website. Menus can be viewed on [SchoolCafé](#) or a [PDF printable on our website](#). You may also access menus by clicking the Menus Quicklink on our website homepage. Not only can you see breakfast and lunch menus here, but you can also see the nutritional information!
- Read more on [school nutrition reminders and frequently asked questions](#)

Contact

Maggie Sanna

School Nutrition Director

Dana Hoffman

Asst. Dir. of School Nutrition

Terri O'Neil

Admin. Asst. to School Nutrition



TRANSPORTATION

Finding your student's bus route:

Nelson's Bus Service utilizes a parent/guardian app called Stopfinder that allows parents and guardians (and any other authorized users such as grandparents or childcare providers) to have easy-to-use and secure access to their student's school bus information. Stopfinder is free for families; Parents/guardians of students listed in Infinite Campus as "Emergency Priority 1" will receive an email from [no-reply@stopfinder.com](mailto:reply@stopfinder.com) inviting them to set up the app and begin using it.

With the Stopfinder app, you can:

- View your student's daily transportation assignments - including transfer trips and stops
- Securely share your student's schedule with caregivers
- Receive custom notifications and updates related to transportation

Bus Safety Tips & Student Expectations

Students must only get off at their designated drop-off locations. Students may not ride to a friend's stop (even if they are on the same route).

Make sure your student has their bus tag and knows how important it is to have it with them in order to ride the bus.

Join us for Nelson's Ice Cream Social!

August 14 from 3-7pm at Nelson's Bus Service [2862 Siggelkow Rd. in McFarland]
Bus routes will be available for review

Contact

Nelson's Bus Service

mononagrove@nelsonsbusservice.com

608-221-8417

MGSD Transportation

transportation@mgschools.net

[GUIDE TO TRANSPORTATION
QUESTIONS](#)

The safety and security of our students, staff, and visitors are top priorities. Find conversation starters for you and your student to discuss before the school year begins.

Transportation

Discuss your transportation plan – how will your student get to and from school?

Safety reminders – Remind your student to cross streets at marked crosswalks, obey the crossing guards, do not dart out into traffic.

Bike riding – discuss the route your student will take, wear a helmet, visibility. Remind your student to lock their bike in the designated area.

Have a backup plan in case you're delayed and can't pick them up on time. Where should your student go? Who should they contact? What should they do? Decide on age-appropriate solutions.

Contact

Rachael Martin
School Safety Coordinator

Driver Safety

Observe the school zone speed limits & look out for children.

Remind your teen drivers that roads and school parking lots should be navigated carefully.

Respect school buses, particularly when students are loading & unloading.

Always stop for school buses with flashing red lights.

Follow your school's drop-off procedures.

General Building Safety

Fears about returning to school – discuss “what if” situations, like “what if you get on the wrong bus?” If you believe there are unresolved issues from the previous school year that could affect your student's experience at school, follow up with the teacher or principal.

Emergency drills at school – all students practice monthly drills. Please reinforce the importance of following these procedures when there is an emergency (families are notified of drills in monthly school newsletters).

Ensure your student knows their telephone number or address, contact numbers for trusted adults and how to call 911 for emergencies.

Secure access to our schools

Our buildings are equipped with modern physical safety features that provide a safe and secure learning environment. If you are entering our school, our front office staff will buzz you in. Visitors must provide their photo ID and will receive a badge to wear during your visit. Please account for extra time for this process on your first school visit.

Speak Up Speak Out (SUSO)

SUSO is a reporting “tip-line” program run by the Wisconsin Office of School Safety (OSS) Resource Center. SUSO provides an easy way for students, parents, school staff and community members to submit a school safety concern by downloading the SUSO app (Android and iOS), visiting speakup.widoj.gov or by calling 1-800-MY-SUSO-1.



TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Infinite Campus Login & Support

Infinite Campus is the student information system used to manage our student records. Included in the system is Campus Parent Portal which allows parents/guardians to access their student's information, including attendance, grades, schedules, etc. The portal can also be used to make online payments for food service and fees. If you experience an issue, submit a help request form.

[ACCESS INFINITE CAMPUS PARENT PORTAL](#)

[INFINITE CAMPUS HELP FORM](#)

How & When Students Receive Devices

Students will receive access to their devices along with support and training from our staff once school starts. Students grades 6-12 will have the opportunity to take their devices home. Make sure to review our Device Handbook with your student for secondary grades (can also be found in the student handbook).

[DEVICE HANDBOOK](#)

Tech Support

If your student is having issues with their device, email the help desk at helpdesk@mgschools.net.

HEALTH CHECKLIST

- Make sure your student is up to date on [vaccination requirements](#)
- Update school nurse on any health updates
- Prepare any necessary medication for school
Written instructions & authorization to administer medication must be obtained from the parent/guardian and physician. Medication forms are valid for one school year only. [Medication forms](#) can be found on our website or in school health offices.
- Read more on [annual health information](#) and [when to keep ill students home](#) on our website.

Contact

Sarah Brockman

School Nurse at WS, MG21 & MGHS
ws.healthroom@mgschools.net
mghs.healthroom@mgschools.net
mg21.healthroom@mgschools.net

Danielle Kuhns

School Nurse at TPS, CGS, GRS & GDS
tps.healthroom@mgschools.net
cgs.healthroom@mgschools.net
grs.healthroom@mgschools.net
gds.healthroom@mgschools.net

COMMUNICATIONS

We communicate through several platforms using the contact information saved within Infinite Campus. Click the icons below to review our communication methods and scenarios.

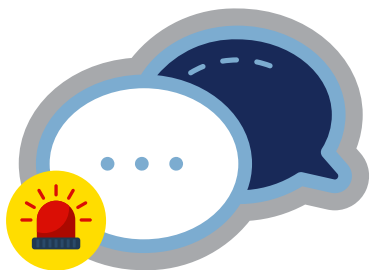
Contact

Katy Byrnes Kaiser

Information & Strategy Officer

Emily Hayhurst

Communications Specialist



EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS



NON-EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

- Make sure your contact information is up to date in Infinite Campus

Need help with interpreting? Contact Jade Sachs (Spanish) at (608) 316-1356 or jade.sachs@mgschools.net or mgsd.translator@mgschools.net.

Other language interpreter/translator needs: Contact Shelby Steel, Assistant Director of Student Services at (608) 316-1926 or shelby.steel@mgschools.net.



GET INVOLVED



School Family Organizations

Cottage Grove Schools & Family Organization (CGSFO)

serves our CG elementary schools. CGSFO brings families, educators & the community together through social events, teacher appreciation efforts and fundraising for curricular enrichment.

Winnequah School Family Organization (WSFO) is open to all Winnequah families. WSFO strengthens community through social events, educator support & funding for classroom materials, field trips & activities to ensure equity & inclusivity.

GDS Parent Involvement Group partners with GDS Administration to support positive experiences for students & staff by offering

input, supervision & financial support for school events.

MGHS Parent Educator Forum (MGHS PEF) is an informal group where all MGHS parents/guardians are welcome to attend meetings multiple times per year to connect with educators & stay informed.

MG21 Parent Teacher Forum (MG21 PTF) is a community-building group that meets monthly to foster relationships between families & support student success.

[SFO INFORMATION](#)

Volunteering

Volunteers play a vital role in building strong school communities by sharing their time, skills, and interests with students—whether regularly or occasionally.

To ensure a safe environment, all volunteers must check in at the main office with a photo ID and complete a background check before working with students.

[VOLUNTEER INFORMATION](#)

Athletics & Activities

Student involvement in athletics & activities is an important part of a well-rounded educational experience – it helps build teamwork, leadership and a sense of belonging. MG offers sports opportunities for students in 6-12, as well as a variety of clubs and co-curriculars at each school to support different interests and passions.

[ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES](#)

Meet the School Board



From left to right:
Stephanie Lehmann (member), Philip Haven (treasurer), Susan Manning (member), Rachelle Miller (vice-president), Janice Stone (clerk), Elizabeth Cook (president), Eric Hartz (member)

Access [BoardDocs](#) for meeting agendas, minutes and materials.

Meet the District Leadership Team



From left to right:
Christa Foster (Dir. of Student Services), Angie Fassel (Dir. of Elementary Teaching & Learning), Kristin Sobocinski (Deputy Superintendent), Rob Meyer (Dir. of Secondary Teaching & Learning), Tanya Fredrich (Superintendent), Katy Byrnes Kaiser (Information & Strategy Officer)

Learn more about our [district departments](#) on our website.

READY, SET, SCHOOL

 WWW.MONONAGROVE.ORG

