



Stratton Sentinel

September 2025

Monthly Newsletter

Letter from the Principal

Happy September Stratton! Soon enough we'll have frost on the ground, the leaves will be changing, and we'll be diving headfirst into all our fall activities. We've had a great start to the school year and our teachers are planning all kinds of activities for the entire year! We are so glad you are part of our amazing community here and I can't wait to meet and get to know you all.

As you heard me say at our Open House, I truly believe that we are partners in your child's education. So much of what your child learns comes from home, and when we work together we can make amazing things happen and truly have an immense positive impact on children's lives. Please encourage your child to read, and whenever you can, have them show you some math skills—reading a recipe and counting money are great ways to do this with younger children! Please continue to remind them to be safe and make smart choices—we will continue to remind them as well!

We're looking forward to a great year together and seeing these wonderful kids learn and grow. Please reach out to us anytime if you have a question, need some information, or have an idea. We'll have many opportunities for parents and families to be involved, and I hope everyone will take a moment to help us make a positive impact on all our students. Thank you!!

Bill Phalen
Principal

What's In This Month's Issue:

- Letter from the Principal
- School News & Events
- PTA News & Event
- Clubs
- Health & Wellness
- Attendance & Safety
- Monthly Calendar

Stratton's SAC Meeting (School Accountability Committee)

Join Principal Phalen for a conversation. Discuss such topics as school budget, improvement plans, academic achievement, etc.

Wed, Sept 17th
5:00–6:00 pm In
person and via WebEx



During bad weather, Stratton will signal students with blue flags to enter, hang their backpacks, and sit quietly in the hallway until the first bell.

School News & Events

FALL PICTURE DAY



Wednesday,
September 10th



Strawbridge Studios will be at Stratton Elementary to photograph students for fall pictures! Parents can [sign up here](#) to receive email updates about their child's portraits, including when photos are ready, special promotions, and novelty items. Please ensure student names are entered exactly as they appear in school records.

To pay on line go to:

<https://www.strawbridge.net/>

Click Order Pictures and enter the School Code: **FM488266**

Field Trips

Every Friday in Sept – ISP

5th–Community Walk

12th– Fire Station

19th– Police Station

26th– Children's Hospital



Thurs, 25th
9:00–1:30 pm

4th Grade to
Florissant Fossil beds

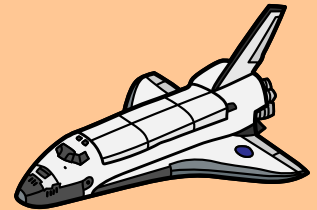
Tues 30th

8:30–2:30 pm

5th Grade to

Challenger

Learning Center



Cub Scouts

Pack 24

September Meetings

Mon, 8th 6–7 pm

Mon, 15th 6–7 pm

Mon, 22nd 6–7 pm

Mon, 29th 6–7 pm



No School

Monday, Sept 1st

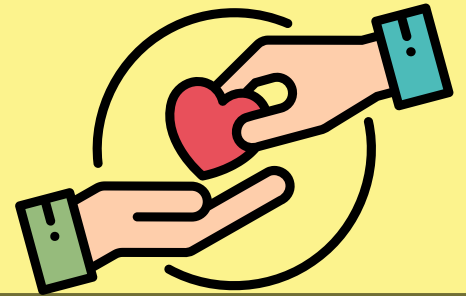
LABOR
★ DAY ★

District Closed

School News & Events

Support Stratton's SPED Resource Room & ISP!

We celebrate the unique ways our students learn and the individualized support they need to thrive. Using hands-on, multisensory approaches, our Special Education team makes learning accessible, engaging, and fun for every student. **Scan their Amazon List** and help us keep our learning spaces welcoming, interactive, and full of opportunity for all!



Orchestra & Band

Orchestra

4th Grade: 8:50 AM

5th Grade: 9:45 AM

Students will meet during their morning specials on Tuesdays & Thursdays.

(Parent Meeting Sept, 11th 6pm)

Band

4th & 5th Grade students that participant will rehearse during morning specials on Mondays & Wednesdays.

4th Grade: 8:50 AM

5th Grade: 9:45 AM

Exciting musical opportunities are here for our Stallions!

MUSIC CLASS

Hello Stallion families!

It's been wonderful seeing the students' enthusiasm in musical theater, a passion I've had since elementary school.

Exciting events are coming up:

- **2nd & 3rd Grade:** "When I Grow Up" showcase on November 20, with more details to follow.
- **4th & 5th Grade:** "Annie Kids" this spring.
- **Kindergarten & 1st Grade:** "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" in the spring.

Shine on, Stallions!
Ms.Davis



School News & Events

ART at STRATTON

🎨 Hello Stratton Families! 🎨

Welcome to a new school year! Mrs. Vassar and Mrs. Niemeier are already having a blast in the art room—get ready for a year full of color, creativity, and imagination!”

✨ What’s Happening in Art Class?

This year in art, we’ll explore drawing, painting, sculpture, collage, clay, printmaking, and more—while also learning about artists, cultures, and how art tells stories and emotions.

🎨 Here’s what students can look forward to:

1–2 hands-on art classes each week focused on creativity, problem-solving, self-expression, art history, and fun new vocabulary.

🏠 Art to Remember Fundraiser

We’re creating pieces for the Art to Remember fundraiser! Order keepsakes featuring your child’s artwork—proceeds help stock our art room with supplies. Check out the [video](#) to see how it works!

🍫 Save the Date: Chocolate Art Night! 🍫

Mark your calendars for March 12—our biggest art event of the year! See hundreds of student artworks on display, bid on collaborative class pieces in the live auction, join hands-on make-and-take art activities, and enjoy delicious treats from the PTA bake sale, including plenty of chocolate. It’s one of our favorite nights—you won’t want to miss it!”

And don’t forget—student artwork will be popping up in our hallways all year long. We love showing off our young artists’ creativity! Stop by anytime to see the magic or reach out just to say hello. Here’s to a colorful year ahead!

💛 Mrs. Vassar & Mrs. Niemeier

PTA News & Events

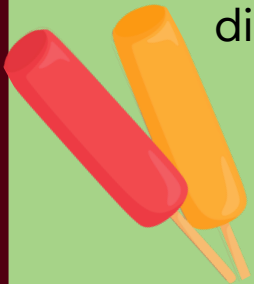
Stratton PTA Board

Email- thestrattonpta@outlook.com

President- Anna Rau **Vice President-** Anneliese McCain
Secretary- Amanda Lockwood **Treasurer-** Rhonda Ball

Popsicle Friday Friday, Sept, 26th

Popsicles will be available for purchase out in the front of the school after the dismissal bell.



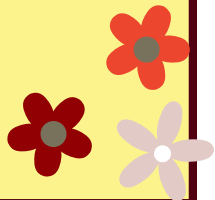
**\$1.00
per popsicle**

PTA Meeting Tuesday, Sept, 9th

Join us for the upcoming [PTA Meeting](#) to share updates, celebrate current initiatives, and plan for an amazing school year!

5:30–6:45 pm

School Library or via WebEx



In & Out Burger Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for

Tuesday, September 16th, starting at 5 PM! Enjoy a delicious **\$8 meal deal** including a hamburger or cheeseburger, chips, and a soda.

Bring your picnic blankets, lawn chairs, and favorite games for a fun evening connecting with the Stratton community.

 Don't wait! **We need at least 200 meal tickets sold to make this event a success**

Ticket Sales:

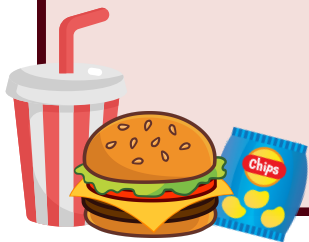
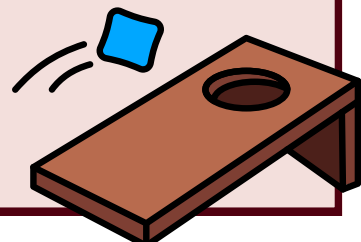
Aug 26–Sept 9th

 **Morning:** 7:30–7:50 am

 **Afternoon:** 2:50–3:15 pm

\$ Cost: \$8.00 per meal
(cash preferred)

*Meals are purchased in advance thru PTA.
You **WILL NOT** be able to purchase meals during the event.

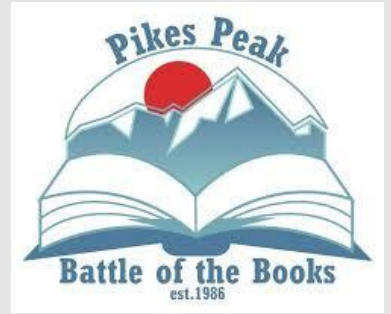


School Clubs

Battle of the Books 2025–2026

For 4th & 5th Graders

Battle of the Books is a reading competition where 5th graders form teams, read from a list of 40 books, and compete in two events:



District 11 Battle – February

Regional Battle – April

Meetings start Tuesday, September 2nd in Room 13

Tuesdays after school: 2:50–3:50

Thursdays at lunch: 12:05–12:35

*Students may attend either or both sessions. Updates will be shared on Class Dojo.

👉 Permission forms must be turned in before attending. Pick one up from Ms. Kilman in Room 13.

4th graders can't compete yet, but are welcome to join meetings to get a head start!



CATAMOUNT
INSTITUTE

YES Club
(Young Environmental
Stewards)– Fall Semester

This fall, 4th and 5th graders will explore Colorado's mountain ecosystems—from snow physics to mountain goat adaptations! Students will enjoy hands-on activities, weekly lessons, and field trips while building friendships.

When: Thursdays, Aug. 28–Dec. 4, 3–5 PM

Where: Ms. Kilman's Room 13

Who: 4th & 5th Grade Students

Learn more, register, or apply for scholarships here:

catamountinstitute.org/yes-club

School Clubs



Yes Club

Thursdays
3:00–5:00 pm

Art Clubs

1st Grade

Tuesday, Sept 30th
2:50–3:30 pm



Battle of the Books

Tuesdays
2:50–3:50 pm

Thursdays
During Lunch

Yearbook Club

Wednesdays
During Lunch Recess



Cross Country

Thursdays
2:50–3:30 pm

Student Council

COMING
SOON



Health & Wellness

Counselor's Corner

Welcome back to school! These past couple of weeks have been so fun seeing our returning Stratton students and meeting our new students! Returning to school can bring a range of emotions for both kids and families. For some students, they're so excited, happy to be back and ready to jump in. And for other students, they're overwhelmed, nervous or just simply tired thinking about all that school entails. A big part of my job at the beginning of the school year is helping students with this transition and ensuring we are doing all that we can for our students to be successful here at Stratton.

QUICK TIP!

As your child adjusts to the start of the school year – have a 1–2-minute check-in with them after school every day. You'll get a sense of your child's day at school and how their day may impact them throughout the rest of the evening.

I want school to be a safe place for your child to thrive! If there is something you feel may get in the way of that (whether it's academically, socially, emotionally or situationally) please let me know so I know how to best support your child.

Taylor Combs
School Counselor
taylor.combs@d11.org | 719-328-3405



LINQ
Connect
ONLINE PORTAL

Free and Reduced/FEDS Combo Application

Even though the students are eating their meals for free, other benefits [to apply](#) are:

- Possible reduction of fees for programs both within District 11 and outside of District 11
- Qualified students will receive Summer Electronic Benefits (S-EBT) in the summer when school is not in session
- Additional funding for schools and District 11 thereby providing an enhanced educational experience for students



School Breakfast & Lunch Menus

Please scan the QR Code for Breakfast and lunch menus.

Menus are subject to change based on availability.





Attendance & Safety

Attendance Matters

AIS & Attendance Notices:

- The AIS system is fully operational, with automated texts and calls at 8:50 AM for absent or tardy students. Families of students with attendance below 90% will receive periodic updates until improvement.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up:

- Drop-off starts at 7:30 AM.
- Pick-up runs from 2:50 to 3:00 PM. Please arrange timely pick-ups, as administrative staff cannot supervise students.



Kiss & Go Lane

The Kiss and Go Lane is a pull-through only. Pull to the right lane as far up as you can to drop off or pick up students. Please do so safely and quickly. **DO NOT PARK OR EXIT YOUR VEHICLES.** The left lane is used for exiting the Kiss and Go area. **DO NOT** let students out or pick up while in the left lane.

Employee Parking Area

The employee parking area is **strictly reserved** for buses, daycare, and "Hop, Skip, Drive" student pick-up only. **Parents are not permitted to use this area for student drop-off or pick-up.**



September 2025



Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
	1 NO SCHOOL / DISTRICT CLOSED LABOR DAY 	2 Battle of the Books 2:50-3:50 pm	3	4 Battle of the Books During Lunch YES Club 3:00-5:00 pm Cross Country 2:50-3:30 pm	5 ISP Field Trip Community Walk 1:00-2:00 pm	6
7	8	9 Battle of the Books 2:50-3:50 pm Cross Country Meet @ Stratton 3:30 pm arrival PTA Meeting 5:30-6:45 pm	10 Fall Picture Day  Yearbook Club During Lunch Recess	11 Battle of the Books During Lunch YES Club 3:00-5:00 pm Cross Country 2:50-3:30 pm Orchestra Parent Meeting 6:00 pm	12 ISP Field Trip Fire Station	13
14	15	16 Battle of the Books 2:50-3:50 pm Cross Country Meet @ Adams 3:30 pm arrival PTA In & Out Burger Fundraiser 5:00-7:00 pm  	17 Yearbook Club During Lunch Recess SAC Meeting 5:00-6:00 pm	18 Battle of the Books During Lunch YES Club 3:00-5:00 pm Cross Country 2:50-3:30 pm	19 ISP Field Trip Police Station	20
21	22	23 Battle of the Books 2:50-3:50 pm Cross Country Meet @ Coronado/Holmes 3:30 pm arrival	24 Yearbook Club During Lunch Recess	25 4th Grade to Florissant Fossil Beds 9:00-1:30 pm Battle of the Books During Lunch YES Club 3:00-5:00 pm Cross Country 2:50-3:30 pm	26 ISP Field Trip Children's Hospital PTA POPSICLE FRIDAY  	27
28	29	30 5th Grade to Challenger Learning Center 8:30-2:30 pm Battle of the Books 2:50-3:50 pm Art Club 1st Grade 2:50-3:30 pm Cross Country Meet @ Gary Berry 3:30 pm arrival				