

HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY ODYSSEY MAGNET



**DECEMBER 2025
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**



Highlands/Odyssey
Elementary

Phone: 920-852-5480

Fax: 920-852-5481

[Highlands/Odyssey](#)

[2025-2026](#)

[Parent Handbook](#)



For easy access to Highlands information, "Like" the Highlands Elementary page on Facebook!

What's For Breakfast & Lunch



[December Breakfast Menu](#)



[December Lunch Menu](#)

Winter Break

Wednesday, December 24th - Friday, January 2nd

School Resumes on Monday, January 5th

Wishing you a safe and happy holidays!

Highlands/Odyssey Holiday Spirit

Monday 12/15



Movement Monday!
wear your comfy
clothes and get
ready to move!

Tuesday 12/16



Holiday Best Day!

Wednesday 12/17



Jammy Day

Thursday
12/18



Mad for Plaid-
wear plaid red or
green today

Friday 12/19



wear red, green,
or ugly sweaters
today!



Highlands Elementary School & Odyssey Magnet School

Kari Krueger, Principal

Michael Dexheimer, Associate Principal

Hello Tigers and Owls!

Welcome to December! With the cooler weather, despite not having the snow...yet... make sure your child is dressed appropriately for school. Often layers for learning time in the classroom are best - students are welcome to keep sweatshirts on their coat hooks. Jackets, snow pants, and boots are required in order for students to play in the field at recess when the snow arrives. Hats and mittens increase the comfort of snow fun too! Remember, we go outside twice daily. If you are missing any of your gear, please be sure to check our Lost and Found as items will be donated over the winter break. If you are in need of winter gear due to financial hardships, please contact your child's classroom teacher as we can assist in trying to locate items you may need.

As a reminder, if you are in need of assistance with food given the situation with Food Stamps in Wisconsin, please contact me directly and/or Mrs. Hestres (school counselor: hestressarah@asds.k12.wi.us) or Katie Yoder (school social worker: yoderkatie@asds.k12.wi.us).

Thanks to those families who joined us in November for our BINGO/school data presentation! We were excited to share our academic glows/grows as a site with you! **Save the date of Wednesday, January 14th (8:30-9:30 am) for our quarter 2 TOPS assembly and parent showcase.** We will recognize students for being respectful, responsible, and safe and invite our special family guests back to the classroom to see what we have been working on after that!

Finally, can you help us out with lunch and recess supervision and in return make \$11/hour? If so, let me know! I'd love a few more hands!.

Wishing you a warm and healthy winter/ holiday season!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Krueger
Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER



December 5th - No Boys and Girls Club

December 8th - Odyssey Open House - 6:30-7:15 pm

December 11th - Chipotle Fundraiser (PTO) - 4:00-8:00 pm

December 18th - 5th Grade Band Concert at Wilson - 6:00 pm

December 24th-January 2nd - No School Winter Break

January 9th - No Boys and Girls Club

January 12th - PTO Meeting - 3:45-4:45 pm (LMC)

January 13th - Chick-fil-A Fundraiser (PTO) - 4:30-7:00 pm

January 14th - 2nd Quarter TOPS Celebration - 8:30 am

January 16th - No School - Staff Development

January 19th - No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

[Highlands/Odyssey Family Calendar](#)

[District Calendar](#)

Important Yearly Reminders

- 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.
- We have noticed some students bringing their trading cards and other toys from home to school. Please remind them to leave these items at home to avoid any issues at school.
- 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, 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.

From the Counselor

The mindfulness technique we practiced in November was a body scan. This is a practice in relaxation and allows students to feel where they hold any tension as well as the difference between a relaxed and a tense body. Here is a link to a video of the Body Scan.

<https://youtu.be/OGRA5PsNWqc>

In December, we will be stretching.

In November we learned about sad feelings. Sad feelings are feelings of loss or when we lose out on something. Part of our self-awareness is asking ourselves what is making us sad, where we feel that in our body and what can we do about it. Many things can help sad feelings. Doing a quiet, creative activity and seeking comfort are two ways that help us with our sad feelings. And sometimes, we just need to be sad for a bit and accept our sad. In December we will look at happy feelings.

Our November Sources of Strength lessons were on understanding emotions and regulating emotions. In December we will focus on safety.

The Holiday season can be a tough season for children and adults. The weather is getting colder, there is less light and stresses can be high. Children are also affected by these stresses. The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests the following tips to help kids (and parents too) reduce their stress during the holidays.

Keep bedtimes and mealtimes on a regular schedule, focus on the holidays as a time to spend with each other, concentrate on 1 task at a time, take care of yourself-kids pick up on adult stress-model good coping.

Clothing & Winter Gear Donations

We are in need of boys and girls pants sizes 5-10 to keep for students that may need to change their clothes during the school day. We are also looking for donations of new or gently used winter gear for students in need. Please bring any donations to the office.



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!

If you are in need of winter gear for your student, please let the office know. We have some donations of winter items available for families in need.

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.

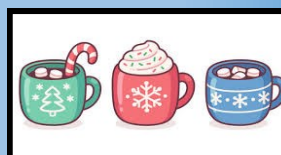
We encourage our families to review these opportunities for students of all ages. Check out the [AASD COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS PAGE](#) for a current list of opportunities.

please check
**Lost
&
Found**

A graphic with the text 'please check Lost & Found' in various colors and fonts. To the left of the text are illustrations of a blue hat, blue gloves, and a purple hat.

Please take your student through the lost & found if they are missing anything. All items not claimed by Tuesday, December 23rd at 3:30 pm will be donated.

Thanks!



The Social Work Spotlight

Please reach out to Katie Yoder, School Social Worker if you need assistance with any of the following:

- Housing
- Food Resources
- Clothing Resources
- Mental Health Resources

WORK PHONE: 920-852-5480 EXT 29157

CALL/TEXT: 920-515-0216

EMAIL: yoderkatie@aasd.k12.wi.us

Highlands & Odyssey Food Closet

Staff and community members came together to organize a food drive in support of our students and families. Thanks to generous donations, we've collected a range of non-perishable, shelf-stable items that can be used for multiple meals and provide lasting support in the months ahead. If you would like to pick up food for your family, please contact Katie Yoder, Sarah Hestres, or the front office to schedule a time.

Additional Resources

1. Download the APP "Food Finder" enter your zip code and food pantries near you will appear on a map along with their hours and additional details
2. [Mental Health Resources](#)
3. [Crisis Resources](#)
4. [Food Resources](#)
5. [Salvation Army Angel Tree - Due December 3rd/4th](#)

Our Run/Walk club participated in the Santa Scamper on November 25th before the Appleton Christmas Parade. This was a great way to celebrate our hard work and wrap up our fall run/walk club season.



Let's hear it for our Tigers & Owls and their family participants!



Lawrence Community Girl Choir

Where Girls Find Their Voice



Join us for Spring Semester 2026!

Education. Artistry. Empowerment.

- **Belong** to a caring, accepting, and encouraging community
- **Grow** your voice, musicianship, and confidence
- **Learn** diverse repertoire from expert teachers
- **Meet** and sing with new friends from across the Fox Valley
- **Perform** with artistic excellence and connection

**Audition/Register
to sing with us**



Grades 2-4 (non-auditioned): register online

Grades 3-12 (auditioned): sign up online

Grades 3-6: Nov. 23 & Dec. 8

Grades 7-12: Nov. 24 & Nov. 30

Adults (non-auditioned): register online

communitymusic.lawrence.edu/girlchoir

auditions/registration open until Jan. 5 at 8:00a.m. or until filled



Highlands Spirit Wear Sale

We are partnering with a new vendor this year for our Highlands school apparel! Note, our Fall Sales wrapped up, but you can still order anytime throughout the school year. All orders will ship free to our school or can also be shipped to your home. Click [here](#) for instructions on how to order.



Mark your calendars

for our upcoming

Family Glow Dance!

Friday, January 23rd

6:00-8:00 pm

Highlands Gym

Upcoming Fundraisers

Chipotle Night

111 N. Mall Dr.

Thursday, Dec.11th

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

[English](#) [Spanish](#)

Chick-fil-A

3775 W. College Ave.

Tuesday, Jan. 13th

4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

[English](#)

Buffalo Wild Wings

Friday, February 20th

PTO Meeting

When: Monday, Jan.12th

Where: LMC

Time: 3:45-4:45 pm

All are welcome!

****No meeting in December****

EARN CASH FOR SCHOOLS WITH BOX TOPS

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

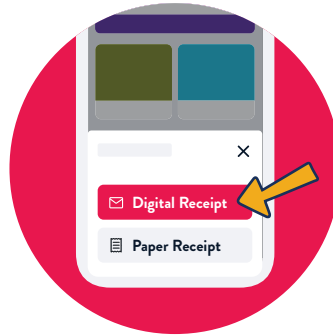
For over 25 years, Box Tops for Education has given families an easy way to earn for schools with products they already buy. Today, you can find hundreds of participating products throughout the store — and all you need is the Box Tops app.



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.btfecom.com)

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



Tri-County Dental Program

Tri-County Dental is offering an oral health program for children at Highlands & Odyssey that DO NOT HAVE DENTAL INSURANCE. The program includes: a dental exam, cleaning, x-rays, fillings, fluoride treatments and oral health education.

Click the link below for additional information including how to register.

Tri-County Dental Program

AASD Birth-Five OUTREACH BIRTH-FIVE OUTREACH & APPLETON COMMUNITY 4K INVITE YOU TO

Appleton COMMUNITY 4K

WINTER WONDERLAND

BUNDLE UP AND JOIN US FOR A MAGICAL WINTER EVENING OF GAMES, CRAFTS, STORIES, SONGS, AND SNOWY FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

FREE!
Open to families with children ages birth to five. Siblings are always welcome!

Registration required by December 8th.

December 11th
6 - 7 PM
Community Early Learning Center
313 S. State Street, Appleton

Please contact Danielle Tzakais at (920) 832-6470 #1 or Tzakaisdaniell@aasd.k12.wi.us

The following is needed for registration: parent/caregiver name, child's name/birthdate, phone number, address and email address



Sponsored by:

AASD Birth-Five OUTREACH

Learning Through Play

FREE playgroups on Thursdays for children ages birth through five years and their caregivers

Play is an essential part of childhood and the natural way children learn. Join us for stories, songs, art, games and more as we learn through play together.



January 8th: *Some Pets*
January 15th: *Red Light, Green Light*
January 22nd: *Exploring the Senses*

Choose either 9:00-10:00 am
OR 10:30-11:30 am

Registration is Required
Families within the Appleton Area School District will have priority registration as space is limited. Register for one or all three dates by calling (920) 832-6470 #1. The following information is needed for registration: parent/caregiver name, child's name/birthdate, phone number, address & email address.



Located at the Community Early Learning Center, 313 S. State Street, Appleton



News from the
School Nurse:

December Newsletter

Dec. Newsletter - Spanish

Dec. Newsletter - Hmong

News from the AASD

Birth-Five Outreach Program:

December Newsletter

3-5 Year Developmental

Screenings



HEALTH GUIDANCE FOR GOING TO SCHOOL

Showing up to school every day is critical for children's well-being, engagement and learning.

MAKE SURE TO SEND CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE:

- Generally healthy and well
- Participating in usual day-to-day activities

CHILDREN CAN EVEN GO TO SCHOOL IF THEY:

- Have a mild cold, which may include a runny nose and/or cough
- Have eye drainage without fever, eye pain, or eyelid redness
- Have a mild stomachache
- Have lice nits. If live lice are found, the guardian will be instructed to remove live lice after the end of the school day.
 - *Though they are annoying and should be treated, lice are not a reason to exclude a child from school. (This is consistent with the guidance provided by DPI, AAP, CDC, and DHS.)*
- Haven't had a fever for 24 hours and have not taken fever-reducing medicine during that time.

Avoid keeping children at home unless they are too sick to participate. Please see the back of this handout for details. *Note: In most situations, a healthcare provider's note is not needed to return.*



Children may also avoid school due to anxiety. Symptoms may include:

- decreased appetite
- feeling tired
- stomachache
- headache etc.

If you are worried that your child may be suffering from anxiety, talk with your student's Classroom Teacher, the School Nurse, Social Worker, or other School Staff to discuss the challenge and identify what can help your child stay in school.

REASONS TO KEEP STUDENTS HOME FROM SCHOOL AND WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN BEFORE THEY CAN RETURN

SYMPTOM	WHEN SHOULD YOUR STUDENT STAY HOME?	WHEN CAN YOUR STUDENT RETURN TO SCHOOL?
Fever	They have a fever of 100.4°F or higher.	If they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and are feeling better.
Vomiting and/or diarrhea	If they have vomited or have had diarrhea in the last 24 hours. If their stool is watery, they may not make it to the toilet in time.	Once a normal diet is tolerated for 24 hours and they are feeling better.
Cough	If they have a persistent cough with difficulty breathing or with a fever.	Once they are feeling better and any remaining cough is not distracting to themselves or others.
Rash	If a rash has blisters, is draining, is painful, and spreading and or accompanied by a fever it needs to be examined by a health care provider.	Once the rash has no new bumps, has dried, or they have been cleared for return by your health-care provider.
Sore throat	If they have painful swallowing when drinking or eating along with other symptoms such as a fever or rash.	Once they are feeling better. If they were prescribed an antibiotic by your health-care provider, then they can return 24 hours after the first dose, if they are without fever and feeling better.

If you don't know whether to send your child to school or have specific concerns regarding your child's health, contact your child's Healthcare Provider, local urgent care, or the School Nurse.

If your child has a compromised immune system or is at high risk for complications from common illnesses, please talk to your School Nurse about developing a plan with you and your child's Healthcare Provider to keep your child healthy and safe while attending school.

Information included was collected from Attendance Works, Kaiser Permanente, and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN).










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

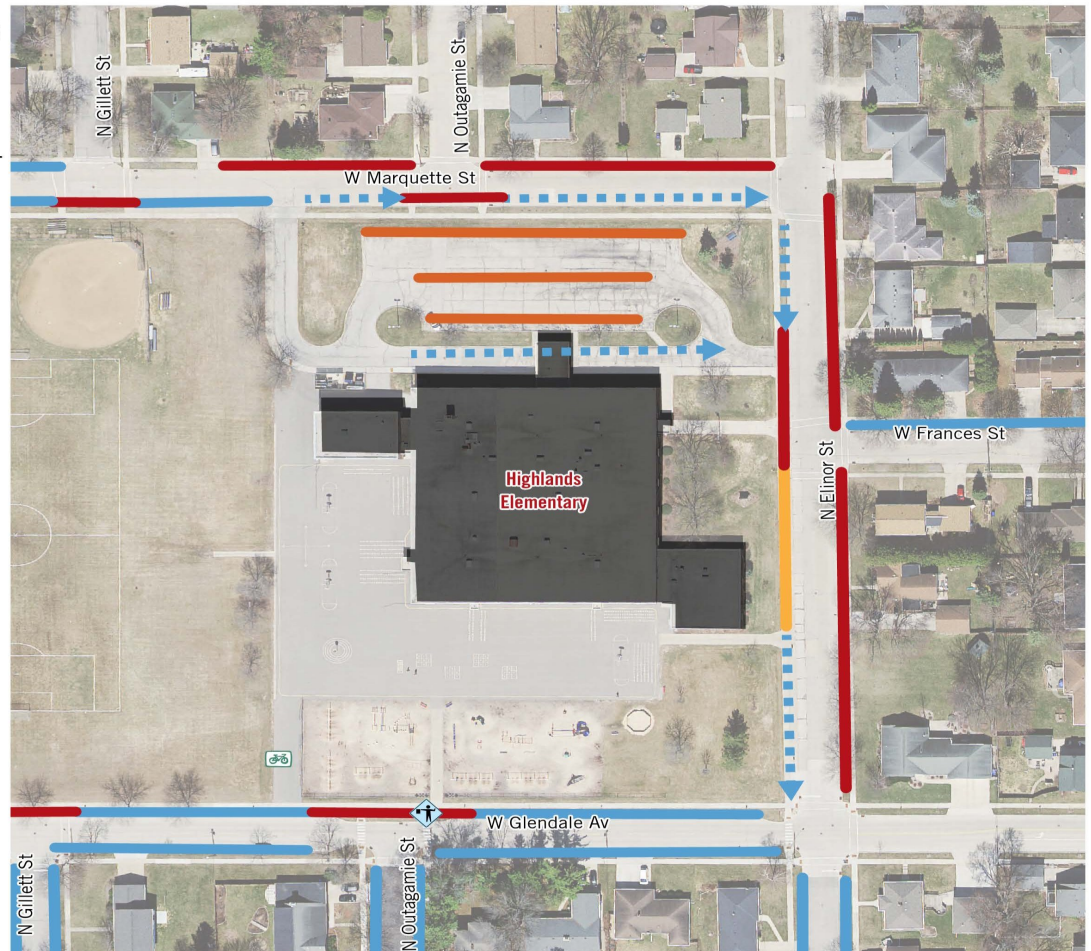


0 100 200
Feet

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.

AW

BASEBALL

CLUB



Join us for the 2026 Baseball Season TODAY!
* Registration closes end of December *

Who: Ages 7-14

When: Season runs from early Spring to end of July, will include league and/or weekend tournaments

Where: Team practice will be held at Carter Woods or Neinhaus Field

\$150
Per Person

For more information and to register:

Visit Our Website - awbaseballclub.org

 **Appleton West Baseball Club Inc.**

If you have any questions, please contact: awbaseballclub@gmail.com





Did you know?

A number of schools in our district participate in the USDA's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP). Your school is one of them. The FFVP provides students with a healthy snack when they are away from home, As a way to promote healthful eating habits. The FFVP is free to all elementary school students. The snacks are 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.

FUN FACT

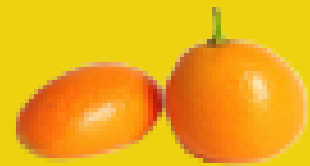
- **Grapes come in three different colors: RED, GREEN, & BLUE-BLACK...**

Why eat fruits & vegetables?

- **Did you know that the potato peel contains most of the nutrition your body needs so try and eat more potatoes with the skin on.**



Fruit and Vegetable Spotlight



Kumquat

Kumquats are sometimes referred to as "little gems" of the citrus family. They have a sweet, thin skin that can be eaten.



Frozen Yogurt Dipped Bananas

Ingredients:

- Bananas
- Yogurt
- Skewers
- Sprinkles- Optional but FUN!

Instructions:
























1. Peel and cut the banana.
2. Place yogurt in a small bowl.
3. Dip each banana into the yogurt and place pieces on parchment paper.
4. Add sprinkles or leave plain.
5. Freeze for at least one hour. Recommended to freeze overnight.

December

2025

FFVP

This is an equal opportunity provider

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Snack Apple 	2 Orange Wedges 	3 Pineapple/Grape 	4 Apple/Grapes 	5 Turnip Sticks 	6
7	8 Snack Apple 	9 Mandarin Oranges 	10 Radishes 	11 Honeydew 	12 Green Apple Slices 	13
14	15 Snack Apple 	16 Kumquats 	17 Yellow Squash 	18 Cantaloupe 	19 Jicama 	20
21	22 Snack Apple 	23 Orange Wedges 	24 	25 	26 	27
28	29 	30 	31 			

Menu subject to change without notice