



EVENT NOTICE – Monday, December 8, 2025
Fargo Public School District #1

The following information is for media outlets for the purpose of assigning staff coverage to the event.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLERS CALCULATING THE TOTAL COST OF PRESENTS IN ‘THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS’

How much are you spending on Christmas presents this year? Probably not as much as the “true love” in the classic Christmas song “The 12 Days of Christmas.”

- WHAT:** ‘The 12 Days of Christmas’ Calculations
WHEN: **Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays in December**
- Third Grade: 12:30 p.m.
 - Fifth Grade: 1:05 p.m.
 - Fourth Grade: 1:35 p.m.
- WHERE:** Clara Barton Elementary School, 1417 6th Street South, Fargo
CONTACT: **Anna Wuitschick**, Clara Barton gifted and talented teacher,
wuitsca@fargo.k12.nd.us or 701.446.4435 for more information.

The “true love” of the protagonist of “The 12 Days of Christmas” spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on their near-two-week display of affection. The third, fourth, and fifth graders in the gifted services math groups at Clara Barton Elementary School have been working to figure out exactly how big their Christmas present budget was and will complete their calculations this week.

The third and fourth grade students are tasked with calculating how much money is spent on presents each day of “The 12 Days of Christmas.” For example, on the fifth day, they must calculate the cost of five golden rings, four calling birds, three French hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree.

The fifth graders are learning how to take that data and put it into a spreadsheet and create charts that will show them how much money the “true love” is spending.

The students have used the Christmas Price Index to help guide their calculations. PNC Bank has researched the cost of each present in “The 12 Days of Christmas” since 1984 and has released the findings each year as the Christmas Price Index. This year, the true cost of the song is \$218,542.98. The price of a partridge in a pear tree increased 13.5% to \$420.18 this year from \$370.18 last year, due to the cost of trees increasing. Meanwhile, the price of four calling birds has remained static at \$599.96 since 2014. The prices of the nine ladies dancing, 10 lords-a-

leaping, 11 pipers piping, and 12 drummers drumming all rose by 2.2%, reflecting an increase in rates for entertainment performers.

Gifted and Talented Teacher Anna Wuitschick starts the Christmas Price Index unit by watching YouTube videos of performances of the song, including one by The Muppets, one by Sesame Street, and ones that other schools have recorded. Then they start to look at the prices of the presents and work on their math skills and start calculations from there. Wuitschick also makes sure that the students know the 12 days of Christmas start on Christmas and not before.

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