

HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY

ODYSSEY MAGNET



**JANUARY 2026
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**



Highlands/Odyssey
Elementary

Phone: 920-852-5480

Fax: 920-852-5481

[Highlands/Odyssey](#)

[2025-2026](#)

[Parent Handbook](#)



What's For Breakfast & Lunch



[January Breakfast Menu](#)



[January Lunch Menu](#)

Classroom Showcase & Quarter 2 TOPS Celebration

Join us on Wednesday, January 14th from 8:30-8:50 a.m., for our classroom showcase. Visit your child's classroom during this time to see some of the wonderful activities our students do at school. We hope you can join us for this fun event!

Immediately following our Classroom Showcase, we will have the Quarter 2 TOPS Assembly for our students who will be recognized this quarter for BEING RESPONSIBLE. You will receive an email from your child's teacher if your student is being recognized this quarter.

Report Cards & Parent/Teacher Conferences

Report cards will be available on the Parent Portal Thursday, January 29th at 4:00 p.m. Hard copies of your child's report card will be handed out at conferences in February.

Spring conferences are coming up on Tuesday, February 3rd & Thursday, February 5th. You will be receiving a confirmation slip later in the month with your conference date and time.



Highlands Elementary School & Odyssey Magnet School

Kari Krueger, Principal
Michael Dexheimer, Associate Principal

Happy New Year Tigers and Owls!

2026 has arrived! I wish you each a year of health, happiness, and joy!

Being a new year, this is a great time to reflect and set goals. In alignment with this, in the upcoming weeks, our students will be engaging in the mid-year iReady assessment where they will show us what they know in the areas of ELA and math. It is important that students give their best effort so we can truly assess their skills and match them with instruction at their level.

Please mark your calendars for **Wednesday, January 14th**. At **8:30** until about 8:50 we invite ALL families to join us in their students' classroom for a "showcase" event where you will get to see a completed piece of work from your student and/or engage in an academic task with them. Following, we will have our **second quarter celebration** where we recognize students from each classroom who have met our school-wide expectations. We hope to see you there (and anticipate the showcase/second quarter celebration ending by 9:30ish)!

I look forward to seeing you in February at parent teacher conferences! As a reminder, your date/time from the fall conferences will carry forward to the spring schedule; watch for communication about this from your child's teacher and communicate with them if changes need to be made. At conferences, your child's report card will be printed and reviewed with you. These will be accessible to you via Infinite Campus on January 30th at 4pm.

Please know that if you have questions, celebrations, or concerns please call, email, or stop in.

Thank you for your partnership in your child's education.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Krueger



WILSON MIDDLE SCHOOL AND MAGELLAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

225 N. Badger Ave - Appleton - WI - 54914



(920) 852-5435



(920) 852-5436

Winter 2025-2026

Hello Incoming 6th grade Students and Families,

Now that we've turned the calendar to January, we are beginning the process of organizing schedules to welcome our current 5th grade students to Wilson Middle School as 6th graders for the 2026-2027 school year!

During the week of **January 5**, all students will view a slide deck at school that shares information about 6th grade and the courses they will take. The slide deck also provides an overview of middle school scheduling and other important details.

Later this spring, we will host site visits at Wilson and will also arrange for our 6th grade teachers to visit your child at their current school. We'll continue to share more information about the transition to middle school as the spring progresses.

On **Wednesday, January 7**, families of incoming 6th graders will receive an email with a link to a brief survey where students will select their music option for next year. That email will also include the slide deck students viewed at school. Please complete the survey by Thursday, January 15, so we can begin scheduling for the fall.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Deb Moreland, Associate Principal at Wilson Middle School, at 920-852-5435 or by email at morelanddebra@aaasd.k12.wi.us.

Sincerely,

Deb Moreland

Associate Principal-Wilson Middle School

Principal of Magellan

DATES TO REMEMBER



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 - Classroom Showcase & TOPS Celebration - 8:30 am

January 16th - No School - Staff Development

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

January 20th - 2nd Semester Begins

January 22nd - Odyssey Parent Roundtable - 6:00 pm (LMC)

January 23rd - Family Glow Dance (PTO) - 6:00-8:00 pm

January 29th - Report Cards Visible on Parent Portal - 4:00 pm

February 3rd & 5th - Parent/Teacher Conferences - 4:00-7:30 pm on the 3rd & 4:00-7:15 pm on the 5th

[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.
- 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.

Highlands/Odyssey Vocal Music Concerts

Thursday, February 12th at 2:30 p.m.

Highlands/Odyssey 4th & 5th Grade and Choir

Thursday, March 5th at 2:30 p.m.

Highlands/Odyssey 2nd and 3rd Grade

Tuesday, March 10th at 2:45 p.m.

Highlands Kindergarten and 1st Grade



Lunchroom Help Needed



We are looking for help during our lunch hour from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m each day (there is some flexibility in the days/times). This is a volunteer or paid position and is a great opportunity to work with the wonderful students in our building! Contact Mrs. Krueger or Mr. Dexheimer in the office if you are interested.

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](#)



News from the

School Nurse:

[January Newsletter](#)

[Jan. Newsletter - Spanish](#)

[Jan .Newsletter -Hmong](#)

News from the AASD

Birth-Five Outreach Program:

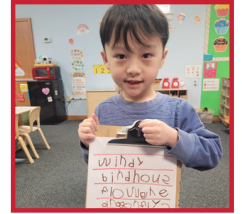
[January Newsletter](#)

[3-5 Year Developmental](#)

[Screenings](#)

*Do you know a child who will be 4 years old
on or before September 1st?*

APPLETON COMMUNITY 4K ENROLLMENT BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 9, 2026!



Why Appleton Community 4K?

- District-aligned curriculum for a seamless transition to kindergarten
- Highly qualified, 4-year-degree licensed teachers
- Morning, afternoon, and extended day classes
- 4-Day and 5-Day options
- Childcare available before and after classes at many locations
- Access to individualized supports for student success and early intervention

Appleton Community 4K builds a lifelong love of learning through creativity, curiosity, problem-solving, and exploration.

Our students learn through purposeful play guided by highly qualified teachers who engage in ongoing professional development. We embrace well-established research that play allows young learners to make connections and solidify newly learned skills.

We carefully monitor and measure student growth, and our results consistently demonstrate that we meet or exceed the widely held expectations for 4K students. Aligned with the AASD Kindergarten curriculum, our curriculum includes early literacy, math, and social-emotional learning, such as kindness, making friends, and playing together.

We meet students with the skills they have when they arrive in 4K and use a positive, engaging classroom to build a lifelong love of learning through creativity, curiosity, problem-solving, and exploration.

2026-27 4K enrollment begins on February 9, 2026, at [4k.aasd.k12.wi.us!](https://4k.aasd.k12.wi.us)



Find more information here!
¡Encuentra más información aquí!
Yog koj xav paub ntiv txog kev kawm
ntawv hauv 4K mus ntawm no!





WELCOME TO MEET MY MILESTONES



The Appleton Area School District is excited to offer Meet My Milestones, a free parent/child preschool intervention group designed for 3-4 year-old children in the year prior to 4K. Recognizing that parents are their child's first and most important teachers, this program empowers families to engage in teacher-led activities that promote learning, build friendships, and develop essential school readiness skills. Parents will gain valuable resources and work alongside their child to support developmental milestones in areas such as speaking, listening, thinking, social skills, and movement. Parents must stay with their children and are encouraged to participate in the activities. If you sign up, please plan to attend all 8 sessions, as spots are limited.

Session 1: January 7 - February 27
Session 2: March 4 - May 1
Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays
Times: 8:45-10:00 AM or 10:30-11:45 AM
912 N. Oneida St. Appleton

PROGRAM FEATURES :

- ✓ Parent/Child Class for 3 year olds/8 week sessions
- ✓ learn about typical 3 year old milestones
- ✓ Help your child meet milestones through play

ENROLL NOW

- 📄 Scan QR Code
- 📞 or call 920-832-6109



Kids who play more, pursue more. **building for KIDS** children's museum
100 W. College Avenue
Appleton, WI 54911
(920)734-3226

Brrrr! It's getting cold out there!

Join us inside where it's warm- at the Building for Kids for a very special Appleton Community 4K -and their 5K Friends- Family Event!

WHEN: Saturday, January 25th, 2025

WHERE: Building for Kids

TIME: 5:00-8:00 PM

WHO:

AASD Appleton Community 4K students & their families
AND

AASD Kindergarten students & their families

COST: FREE!

RSVP: community-4K@aasd.k12.wi.us

OR (920)852-5600, option 1

*Please include the name of your 4K site/elementary school & the number of people expected to attend.



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.



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.

From the Counselor

The mindfulness technique we practiced in December was a stretch around the world. This gets rid of tension and is energizing for the brain when we have sat for too long. Stretching reduces stress and negative emotions as well as reduces anxiety and depressive symptoms. It won't solve everything, but it helps. Here is a link to a video of the Body Scan. https://youtu.be/_mgCKSMF_1E

In January, we will be using our powers of observation.

In December we learned about happy feelings. Happy feelings are feelings of pleasure-they are feelings that make us feel good. We are always looking for good management strategies. Using guided imagery is a nice way to calm ourselves. This can be done by sitting in a quiet space, closing our eyes and first noticing any sensations we have in our body. Then, imagine taking a walk through the woods. Imagine the colors, sights, sounds and smells you would encounter. Notice the sensations in your body afterwards. You will likely notice a calmer body.

Our December lessons focused on personal body safety. Students learned about the private body parts rule and reviewed all of our safety rules.

Does it seem like all your child wants to do is play video games? Having a hard time getting them to get ready and go? The American Association of Pediatrics recommends putting children on a media "diet" and includes the following recommendations. Among the AAP recommendations: For children ages 6 and older, place consistent limits on the time spent using media, and the types of media, and make sure media does not take the place of adequate sleep, physical activity and other behaviors essential to health. Designate media-free times together, such as dinner or driving, as well as media-free locations at home, such as bedrooms. Have ongoing communication about online citizenship and safety, including treating others with respect online and offline. Some families will even limit electronics and screen time to only on the weekends and have screen free weekdays. These families have reported a much easier time getting kids ready in the morning, getting kids into bed at night and a better feeling of connectedness and relationships.

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](#)



Upcoming Fundraisers

Chick-fil-A

3775 W. College Ave.

Tuesday, Jan. 13th

4:30 -7:00 p.m.

Buffalo Wild Wings

4601 W. College Ave.

Friday, February 20th

11:00 a.m - 1:00 a.m.



Mark your calendars

for our upcoming

Family Glow Dance!

Friday, January 23rd

6:00-8:00 pm

Highlands Gym

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.

Staff Conference Dinner

Conferences are coming up and the PTO will be providing a dinner for staff on Tuesday, February 3rd. They will be looking for donations of food or money to help put on this event. Please watch for a signup to be sent out soon. Thank you!

**PTO
Meeting**

When: Monday, Jan. 12th

Where: LMC

Time: 3:45-4:45 pm

All are welcome!

EARN CASH FOR SCHOOLS WITH BOX TOPS

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

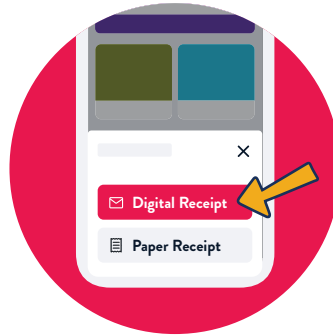
For over 25 years, Box Tops for Education has given families an easy way to earn for schools with products they already buy. Today, you can find hundreds of participating products throughout the store — and all you need is the Box Tops app.



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:










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

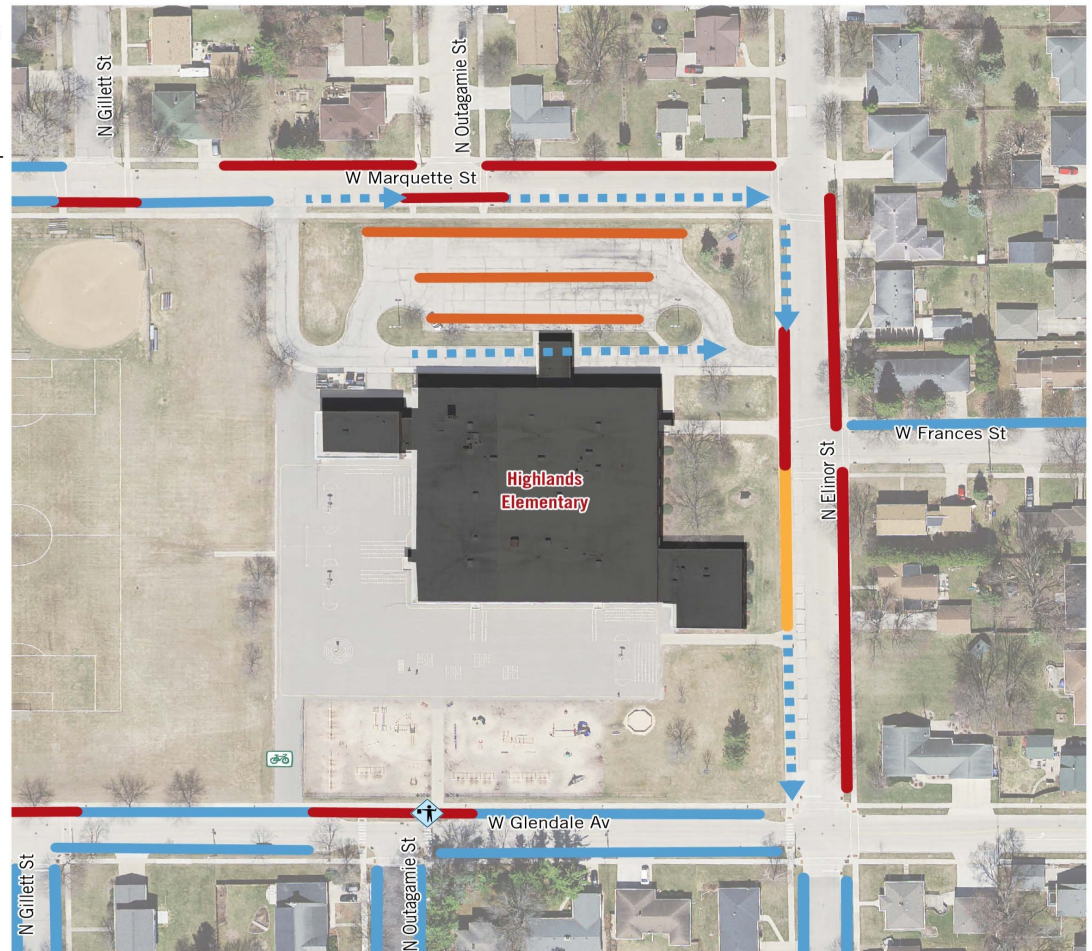


0 100 200
Feet

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.

2026

CHARTER SCHOOL FAIR



ONLY
in the AASD

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE INNOVATIVE & SPECIALIZED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT AWAIT YOUR STUDENT IN THE APPLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT AT OUR **15 FREE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS**



**SATURDAY,
JANUARY 10, 2026**



**10:00 A.M. -
12:00 P.M.**



**APPLETON WEST
EMMANUEL GYM
610 N. BADGER AVE**

WE OFFER A WIDE VARIETY OF UNIQUE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, SUPPORTS, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN LOCATIONS ACROSS APPLETON, ENSURING STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO THRIVE & BE SUCCESSFUL

**K-12 CHARTER SCHOOL
OPPORTUNITIES FOUND
ONLY IN THE AASD.**

Learn more

WWW.AASD.K12.WI.US/CHARTERS

Appleton Little League 2026 Registration



REGISTRATION OPEN
MINOR/MAJOR - until February 15
ROOKIE - until March 29
TEE BALL - until April 12
REGISTER EARLY!
AppletonLittleLeague.org

Level	Games	Opening Day Event
Tee Ball	Tue/Thu	Saturday, May 16
Rookie	Mon/Wed	Saturday, May 2
Minor	Tue/Thu	Saturday, May 2
Major	Mon/Wed	Saturday, May 2

- **Games played weekday evenings**, from early May to the end of June
- **Individual player development** through team practices
- **In-season and post-season tournaments** for most divisions
- **Discounted participation fees** for other Appleton LL seasons & events
- **Financial aid is available** (no player is ever turned away due to the inability to pay)
- **Volunteers and coaches needed** - please help any way you can!
- **Registration open to Appleton and surrounding communities**
- **No player is turned away** (not guaranteed if registering past deadline)
- **No residency/school requirements** for players league ages 4-7

**NEW: EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT
IF REGISTERED IN DECEMBER**

For more information and to register, go to www.AppletonLittleLeague.org

Have registration questions? Please email Registration@AppletonLittleLeague.org

Any other questions, please visit the "Connect » Board" page on our web site to contact one of our volunteer leaders

Little League Softball

Girls Tee Ball & Softball

SB "League Age" determined as of 12/31/2025

Softball League Ages 4-12



Girls Softball
TEE BALL (4-6)

Introduction to Softball

Girls Softball **ROOKIE** (6-8)

*Instructional, coach (machine) pitch
6's subject to availability, passing skills assessment*

Girls Softball **MINOR** (8-11)

*Developmental, player pitch
Tryout/draft required for all players
8's subject to availability, passing skills assessment*

Girls Softball **MAJOR** (10-12)

*Competitive, player pitch
Tryout/draft required for non-returning Major
New in 2025, continuing in 2026: 10-year-olds may try out for Major and 11-year-olds not ready for Major may be drafted to a Minor team*



Little League Baseball

Co-ed Tee Ball & Baseball

BB "League Age" determined as of 8/31/2026

Baseball League Ages 4-12



Co-ed Baseball
TEE BALL (4-6)

Introduction to Baseball

*Beginner (all 4-year-olds & first-year 5-year-olds)
Advanced (5-year-olds w/ 1 yr. experience; all 6's)*

Co-ed Baseball **ROOKIE** (6-8)

*Instructional, coach (machine) pitch
6's subject to availability, passing skills assessment*

Co-ed Baseball **MINOR** (8-11)

*Developmental, player pitch
Tryout/draft required for all players
8's subject to availability, passing skills assessment*

Co-ed Baseball **MAJOR** (10-12)

*Competitive, player pitch
Tryout/draft required for non-returning Major*



Appleton Little League



AppletonLL

REGISTER NOW



No web access to register?

Please call or text 920.944.8081



Pre-printed flyers graciously donated by:



APPLETON LACROSSE CLUB

TRY LACROSSE FREE

+SPRING REGISTRATION



TWO GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO GET IN THE GAME!



TRY LACROSSE FREE

- ▶ **Who:** Boys & Girls
- ▶ **Ages:** 6 - 14
- ▶ **Dates:** Jan. 10 | Feb. 15
- ▶ **Time:** 2 - 3 PM | 5 - 6 PM
- ▶ **Location:** Player's Choice
- ▶ **What to Expect:**
 - ▶ No experience necessary
 - ▶ Equipment provided
 - ▶ No commitment required
 - ▶ Learn basic lacrosse skills
 - ▶ Fun, low-pressure environment



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

- ▶ **Season:** 2026 Spring Lacrosse
 - ▶ **Season Dates:** March 1 - Early June
 - ▶ **Who Can Register:** Boys & Girls | Ages 6 - 14 | All Experience Levels
 - ▶ **What's Included:**
 - ▶ Practices & Games
 - ▶ Local Competition
 - ▶ Rental Options
 - ▶ ALC sponsor T-shirt
 - ▶ Tournament play
 - ▶ Certified Coaches
- Now a WIAA High School Sport!**

REGISTER TODAY

[APPLETONLACROSSECLUB.COM/REGISTER](https://appletonlacrosseclub.com/register)

Follow us
@appletonlacrosseclub

Additional Questions?
vp@appletonlacrosse.com or (920) 750-0434





Monthly Newsletter

January 2026



What is the Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Program?

The FFVP provides students with a healthy fruit or vegetable and is free to all elementary school students! FFVP is provided everyday, but not during breakfast or lunch. The program features a variety of unique, and sometimes new fruits and vegetables to students that they may not 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.



FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SPOTLIGHT

What's on the menu this month?



Pineapple

The pineapple plant is an herb that grows in tropical areas.

It will produce only ONE pineapple each growing season.

Pineapples do not ripen after they have been picked.



Fun Facts

Apples are a good source of fiber and antioxidants. There are over 20 varieties of grapefruit grown in the United States.

Honeydew melons are the sweetest of all melons. Melons are related to squash and cucumbers.

Did you know???

Oranges provide Vitamin C, fiber, potassium, and Vitamin B for your body.

Oranges picked higher on the tree are sweeter than those picked closer to the ground.



Easy ways to add more Fruits and Vegetables to your meals in the New Year!!!

BREAKFAST

- Add fruit to whole-grain cereal, such as sliced bananas, raisins, or unsweetened cranberries.

LUNCH

- Choose celery sticks or baby carrots with a dip as a side instead of chips.

DINNER

- Fill half your plate with vegetables and/or fruit

Info courtesy of the American Heart Association.

Why should you eat fruits and vegetables?

Most fruits are low in fat, sodium and calories. Fruits do not have cholesterol. Vitamin A keeps eyes and skin healthy and helps protect against infections. (USDA MyPlate)

The best way to get more nutrients is to eat fruits and vegetables of many different colors.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Info found at <https://dpi.wi.gov>

January

2026

FEVP

THIS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
WELCOME BACK	Snack Apple	Snack Apple	Honeydew	Rutabaga Stick	Cantaloupe	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Snack Apple	Apricots	Red Grapes	Red Grapes	Tomato Medley	NO SCHOOL	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
NO SCHOOL	Snack Apple	Red Pears	Red Pears	Pineapple	Butternut Squash	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Snack Apple	Mandarin Oranges	Cantaloupe/Honeydew	Broccoli/Carrots	Sliced Apples		