

Owatonna Online

Grades 4-6

Back to School - October 2025

Message from our Principal



Hello Owatonna Online Families,

Welcome to October! 🍁 It has been such a great start to the year, and I truly enjoyed joining Mr. Alvarez's morning meeting earlier in September to meet many of our 4th–6th grade students. It's exciting to see the energy and curiosity they bring into the online space.

As we move into fall, here are a few quick tips and tricks to help your child thrive in online learning:

- **Create a routine:** A consistent start and end time for schoolwork helps build good habits.
- **Use checklists:** Breaking the day into smaller tasks helps students feel accomplished and stay on track.
- **Take movement breaks:** Short breaks for stretching, walking, or a snack can re-energize focus.
- **Ask questions:** Encourage your child to reach out to teachers whenever something is unclear.

Parents and Guardians, I'd love to stay connected with you as well. Please feel free to reach out by email or set up a Google Meet with me if you'd like to connect. Working together ensures the best support for your child's success in Owatonna Online.

Wishing you a wonderful October!

Warmly,
Dr. Martina Wagner

Key Dates:

- October 3 – Quarter 1 Midpoint Check-In for Quarter 1
- October 16–17 – MEA Break (No School)
- October 20- No School- Teacher/Staff Development Day
- October 31- Last Day of Quarter 1

Here is a [link](#) to Owatonna Public School Calendar for the School Year!

4-6th Grade Owatonna Online Handbook:

If you have not already done so, please check out our 4-6th Grade Owatonna Online Handbook! It's full of key information about our program.

Link to the [4-6 Student Handbook](#)

Spotlight on Pearson Connexus:

Owatonna Online students in grades 4–6 use **Pearson Connexus** as their learning platform. This is the digital “classroom” where students log in each day to access lessons, assignments, and teacher feedback.

What Parents Should Know:

- **Dashboard View:** Students can see all their courses and assignments in one place. This helps them stay organized and track progress.
- **Daily Lessons:** Each course includes a mix of readings, videos, practice activities, and assessments. Most lessons are designed to be completed in manageable chunks.
- **Teacher Feedback:** Teachers monitor student progress and provide feedback directly within the platform. Parents can also see this feedback when they log in.
- **Parent/Observer Access:** Parents can request observer accounts. This allows you to view your child’s assignments, due dates, and progress without interrupting their work.
- **Flexibility:** Students can move at their own pace while still having clear due dates and teacher support to keep them on track.

Tips for Parents & Guardians:

- Check your child’s dashboard together a few times a week to celebrate progress and spot missing work early.
- Encourage your child to use the messaging feature to reach out to teachers with questions.

Use the calendar view to plan ahead and avoid last-minute stress.

Pearson Connexus is built to give students independence while keeping parents and teachers closely connected. If you'd like help navigating the platform or setting up your observer account, please reach out—I'm happy to walk you through it.

Some Fun Fall Activities to do at Home this Month

Make Acorn People:

The acorns scattered on your lawn now have a purpose...you can use them to make acorn people! With a few supplies to go along with your acorns, your student can make an entire acorn family. This [video](#) shows you how to do it from start to finish.

DIY Bird Feeders:

Grab some pinecones, peanut butter, and birdseed to create [DIY bird feeders](#) this fall. This is not only a fun activity, but also helps birds prepare for the long winter ahead with available food.

*** I'd love to see pictures of your creations to share in the next newsletter. Please email them to mwagner@isd761.org ***

Attendance Reminders

For a student's attendance to be counted as full attendance each day, the following need to occur:

- Student attends all live Google Meets daily on their selected Path.
- Student's courses are green for pacing in Pearson Connexus.
- If students' courses are yellow or red for pacing, at least 4 hours have been spent working on courses for the day.

If the items listed above do not occur for a given day, the student will be marked as an unexcused absence.

Excused Absences

To be considered an excused absence, the student's parent or legal guardian must contact the school and indicate the reason for the student's absence from school within 24 hours of

K-6th Grade Owatonna Online Attendance
Each of the factors below is considered when teachers report daily attendance. Google Meets and online learning in Pearson are both important parts of our learners' education online. As always, please be sure to be in communication with your child's teacher in regards to occasional adjustments that need to be made to your learner's daily schedule.
1 Student attends all live Google Meets daily on their selected Path.
2 Students' courses are green for pacing in Pearson Connexus.
3 If students' courses are yellow or red for pacing, at least 4 hours have been spent working on courses for the day.
If the items listed above do not occur for a given day, the student will be marked as an **unexcused** absence.
Excused Absences
To be considered an excused absence, the student's parent or legal guardian must contact the school and indicate the reason for the student's absence from school within 24 hours of the absence. The following are examples of absences that will be considered excused and count toward a student's 20 excused absences per year:
• Illness
• Injury
• Family Emergency
• Pre-arranged absences for student participation in non-school competition and performance activities.
• Family vacations with a pre-arranged absence form completed prior.
• Professional appointments that cannot be scheduled outside of the school day.

the absence. The following are examples of absences that will be considered excused and count toward a student's 10 excused absences per year:

- Illness
- Serious illness in the student's immediate family
- Funeral
- Family Emergency
- Pre-arranged excused absences for student participation in non-school competition and performance activities.
- Family vacations with a pre-arranged absence form completed prior.
- Professional appointments that cannot be scheduled outside of the school day

If your learner will be absent, please contact our attendance line at 507-444-8012 or email: csummer@isd761.org before 3:00pm. Owatonna Online reserves the right to request documentation for any absence and requires medical documentation for all absences longer than three days.

School Board Votes Unanimously



At the June 16 School Board meeting, the Owatonna School Board voted unanimously to hold a special election on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, asking voters to consider an increase to the district's operating levy.

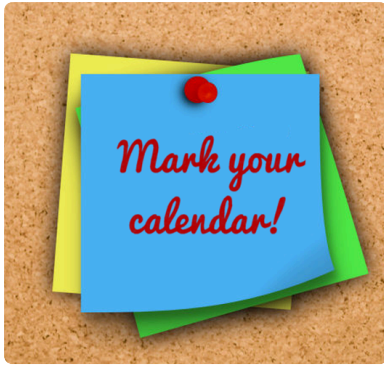
The proposal reflects a shared approach by balancing district budget reductions with a request for increased community support, to help:

- maintain class sizes
- retain high-quality staff
- sustain strong academic, arts, and athletic programs

Learn more about the need for this levy and what it means for students and families by visiting: isd761.org/levy.

Important Dates

- **October 16-17:** No School (MEA)
- **October 31:** End of 1st Quarter



- **November 3:** No School (Teacher workday)
- **November 26-28:** No School (Thanksgiving break)
- **December 24-January 2:** No School (Winter break)

Infinite Campus Log In

Infinite Campus Log In

[Infinite Campus Student Portal](#)



- **The username** is the first part of the student's email address.

(no '@isd761.org' on the end)

- **Password** is the same as the student's Google login (lunch pin).

Student Email Accounts



Students - We email you information often, so please access your email daily! All students have school email accounts and will need to log in daily. Students can do this by doing the following:

Go to gmail.com

Sign in using the following information:

USERNAME: first initial, last name @isd761.org **example:
jdoe@isd761.org

PASSWORD: lunch pin number.

Owatonna Online School Student Handbook

Crisis Response



CRISIS RESPONSE
For Southeast Minnesota

The crisis response inspires hope in adults, children, youth, and their families by delivering compassionate, person-centered, recovery-based mental health support during a crisis. Please do not hesitate to use this as a resource.
1-844-274-7472

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline



If you need suicide or mental health crisis support or are worried about someone else, please call or text 988 or visit the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline chat to connect with a trained crisis specialist.

Attendance

GENERAL ATTENDANCE LINE- **507-444-8012**

Call between 7:00-9:00 am or prior to your student's absence.

PARENT PORTAL - Great resource to check your student's attendance!

Review your profile settings regarding automated notifications, current email, and phone numbers.

Owatonna Online STAFF

- Mr. Ruben Alvarez – Teacher (Grades 4–6) (ralvarez1@isd761.org)
 - Liz Morsching – Social Worker (emorsching@isd761.org)
 - Mara Shack – Art Teacher (mschack@isd761.org)
 - Luke Holt – Phy Ed Teacher (lholt@isd761.org)
 - Xandra Sorenson – Music Teacher (xsorenson@isd761.org)
 - Jen Lopez – English Language Learner Teacher (jlopez1@isd761.org)
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TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

If you are experiencing a technology issue while learning from home, you can contact the Owatonna Public Schools Technology Department by leaving a message on the Technology Hotline at studenthelp.isd761.org. A member of the Technology Department will contact you as soon as possible during Technology Help Desk hours.



[Technology Help Desk](#)

Technology Help Desk Hours:

Monday - Friday

7:30 am - 3:30 pm

507-444-8630

Important Links

[Facebook](#)

[School Calendars](#)

[Community Flyers/ Peachjar](#)

[Technology and Innovation](#)

[Nutrition Services](#)

[Children's Remedial Fund](#)

Parent Portal

[Campus Parent English](#)

[Campus Parent Spanish](#)

[Campus Parent Somali](#)



Nondiscrimination Policy

Owatonna Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, age, gender identity or expression, or socio-economic status. Students with disabilities are entitled to a free appropriate public education that includes general education, special education and/or related aids and services. Direct reports or concerns to the Title IX Coordinator. More information can be found on the district website: isd761.org/nondiscrimination



OWATONNA ONLINE 4-12

Dr. Martina Wagner, Principal

Email: mwagner@isd761.org

Website: isd761.org

Location: [338 East Main Street, Owatonna, MN, USA](#)

Phone: 507-444-8008

Owatonna Online