

HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY

ODYSSEY MAGNET



MARCH 2026
HAPPY SPRING!!



Highlands/Odyssey
Elementary
Phone: 920-852-5480
Fax: 920-852-5481

[Highlands/Odyssey](#)
[2025-2026](#)
[Parent Handbook](#)



What's For Breakfast & Lunch

[March Breakfast Menu](#)

[March Lunch Menu](#)



Highlands Vocal Music Concert



Tuesday, March 10th at 2:45 p.m.
Highlands Kindergarten and 1st Grade



Highlands/Odyssey Band & Orchestra Concert

Tuesday, April 28th at 1:15 p.m. or 2:15 p.m.

Yearbook Ordering

Yearbook ordering is open! Please visit the link below and enter our school code to order yours today. Order Link: harmann.com/ordering School Specific Code: HIODYB

Best pricing for yearbooks is available until March 10th. After March 10th, prices will increase and upgrades will no longer be available. Click [here](#) for additional information.



Highlands Elementary School & Odyssey Magnet School

Kari Krueger, Principal
Michael Dexheimer, Associate Principal

Dear Parents and Families,

I hope this letter finds you well as we welcome March and the arrival of warmer weather, at least I hope as that nice start to February left us hungry for spring!

I want to take a moment and remind you of our **2nd and 3rd grade spring music concert** on Thursday **March 5th**. The concert begins at **2:45pm** in our gym, and we can't wait to sing for you!

****Family Glow Dance:** As you know, this event is set for **March 13th**. Please, if you plan to attend this free event, sign up [here](#), and we would appreciate any help you might be able to provide as well as many hands make light work. Note, **a grownup is required to accompany a student into the dance and stay with him/her in the designated school area for the duration of the event.**

****3rd through 5th grade families:** Beginning at the end of the month and throughout April, students will be taking the WI Forward exam, our state test. As the dates are finalized, teachers will communicate with you the exact testing calendar. I want to remind you of the importance of a good night's rest before test day and the benefits of eating a healthy dinner and breakfast. In these upcoming weeks, staff will be working with students to prepare them for test taking. Finally, please check that your child has working headphones. We have a small supply available, but extras from home are helpful. Thank you!

****Quarter 3 TOPS Assembly and Classroom Showcase:** We will have our third quarter TOPS Assembly on 4/10 where we recognize a few students from each classroom who continuously follow our school expectations. This event will happen at 2:00. Immediately following, families will accompany their students in their classroom for an activity - more details to come!

Wishing you well,

Mrs. Kari Krueger
Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 5th - Odyssey Interim Showcase - 6:30 pm

March 6th - No Boys & Girls Club

March 9th - PTO Meeting - 3:45-4:45 pm (LMC)

March 10th - Yearbook Orders Due

March 10th - Volunteer Appreciation - 2:15-2:45 pm

March 10th - Music Concert - Kindergarten & 1st Grade - 2:45 pm

March 13th - Family Glow Dance (PTO) - 6:00-7:30 pm

March 27th-April 3rd - No School Spring Break

April 6th - No School - Staff Development

April 7th - Elementary Arbitrary Friday

April 10th - TOPS Celebration & Classroom Showcase - 2:00 pm

[Highlands/Odyssey Family Calendar](#)

[District Calendar](#)



Important Yearly Reminders

- We are looking for donations of boys and girls pants to keep in our Health Room for student accidents. Donations can be dropped off in the office. Thank you!
- 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.
- If you haven't already, please be sure to pay your child's school fees for the 2025-2026 school year. You can pay fees online with a debit/credit card through the Parent Portal or in the office with cash

From the Counselor

The mindfulness technique we practiced in February was Mindful Listening. This is also an observational exercise. It gives students an opportunity to focus on things they normally don't pay attention to as well as become aware of how much noise mindless or fidgety activities can make.

It is very simple to do. We simply need to close our eyes, hold still and listen. We can see if we can hear things close to us or far from us and see if we can notice sounds or noises that we normally don't pay attention to. After about 15-20 seconds, it can be useful to review what we heard.

In March, we will be balancing on one foot.

In February, we learned about Self-conscious feelings. Self-conscious feelings are the uncomfortable feelings we have about ourselves. These are uncomfortable because they require us to look inward and see what we might want or need to change. This is uncomfortable and also how we can grow. Often, since these are uncomfortable, we like to change self-conscious feelings into mad feelings because we have a better idea what to do with mad. The problem is that what helps mad feelings, doesn't help self-conscious feelings so it doesn't work. Looking at our values and what we're grateful for helps these feelings.

"But I was defending myself!" is something we hear often when there are conflicts at school or on the playground. We absolutely want to validate when students are wronged. We also want to teach them the skills they need in order to resolve conflicts. When I've asked adults why they tell their children to "hit back" they often tell me they fear that their child will become an easy target if the child don't respond physically. A valid worry. AND kids that don't hit back don't become any more of a target than kids that do hit back. When I ask kids if it fixed it. They always tell me no. When I ask them if it at least made them feel better, they also tell me no. Kids feel empowered when they have tools that help fix the problem and leave them feeling confident. Teaching them ways to approach conflicts without physical aggression and having them ask for help when they need it are skills that will help them for life.

Quarter 3 TOPS Celebration & Classroom Showcase Event

Our Quarter 3 TOPS Celebration will take place on Friday, April 10th at 2:00 pm. You will be notified by your student's teacher if your child is being recognized this quarter. Immediately following our TOPS Celebration (around 2:30), all families are invited to your child's classroom for an activity. More details will be shared soon!

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 will be at Highlands/Odyssey on March 16th-18th. If you would like your child to participate in this program please complete the form below and return to the office as soon as possible.

[ENGLISH](#)

[SPANISH](#)

[HMONG](#)

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.

Summer School

Summer school registration will be done online via the Parent Portal and will open on April 20th. Additional information is available on the [AASD Summer School webpage](#).

See the links below for information and course offerings for Highlands and Wilson.

[Highlands](#)

[Wilson](#)

Lost & Found

Our Lost and found area is overflowing! Please take your student through the lost and found if they are missing anything. All items not claimed before spring break 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

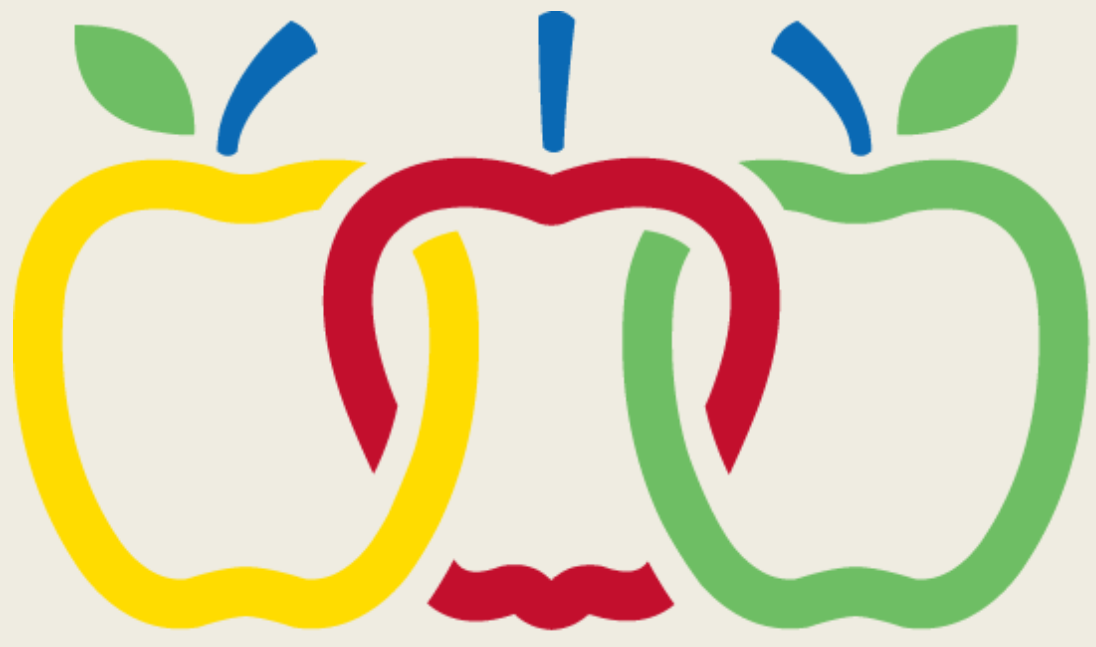
EMAIL: yoderkatie@aasd.k12.wi.us

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](#)



AASD



Help for the Homeless **HYGIENE DRIVE**

Feb 23 - Mar 13

BRING YOUR DONATIONS TO SCHOOL

Learn more



Most urgent needs

Laundry detergent
Dish soap
Hand soap
Trashbags

Trash bags
Diapers/Pull ups
Deodorant
Wipes

Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
2-in-1 Shampoo
Shower gel
and more.....



Goodies w/ Grownups

Mark your calendars and join us on Wednesday, April 22nd from 7:30 to 8:15 am for some yummy breakfast snacks! We will have a variety of breakfast treats, coffee, hot cocoa and juice.

PTO Meeting

When: Monday, March 9th

Where: LMC

Time: 3:45-4:45 pm

All are welcome!

READY,
SET...
GLOW!

Join
us
for

HIGHLANDS & ODYSSEY
GLOW DANCE

NEW DATE

FRIDAY MARCH 13TH, 2026

6:00 - 7:30 pm

School Gym

Families Welcome!
Adult Must Be Present

Drinks & Snacks will be Available



EARN CASH FOR SCHOOLS WITH BOX TOPS

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

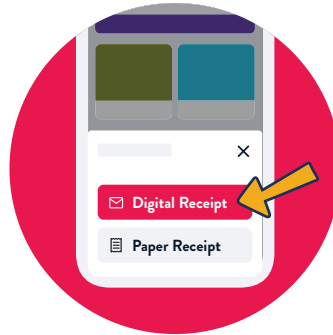
For over 25 years, Box Tops for Education has given families an easy way to earn for schools with products they already buy. Today, you can find hundreds of participating products throughout the store — and all you need is the Box Tops app.



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:



Referendum Information

Did you know? The AASD Board of Education has approved placing an operational referendum on the April 7, 2026, ballot.

[In this 5-minute video, Superintendent Hartjes explains how the proposed \\$15 million per year, four-year operational referendum funds would be used.](#) He outlines the financial realities behind the district's \$13 million budget deficit, clarifies the estimated cost to property owners, and details how additional funds would strengthen student services, including:

- a school counselor in every neighborhood school, every day,
- a 50% increase in access to social workers,
- supports for students learning English as a second language, and students who are credit-deficient.

The estimated tax rate impact for the four-year Operational Referendum is about \$15 per year on a \$100,000 home, or \$45 per year on the average Appleton-area home (\$300,000).

Ways to Learn About the April 7 Operational Referendum

- [Join us at a Referendum Information Session:](#) Open to all community members, our next in-person session is Thursday, March 12, 6:30 p.m. at Wilson Middle School in the Multipurpose Room
- [Visit the Referendum Webpage:](#) Access more videos, FAQs, and submit your questions



**News from the
School Nurse:**

[March Newsletter](#)

[March Newsletter - Spanish](#)

[March Newsletter - Hmong](#)

News from the AASD

Birth-Five Outreach Program:

[March Newsletter](#)

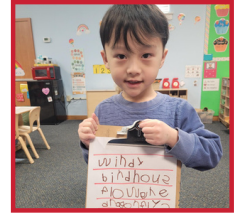
[3-5 Year Developmental](#)

[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!










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



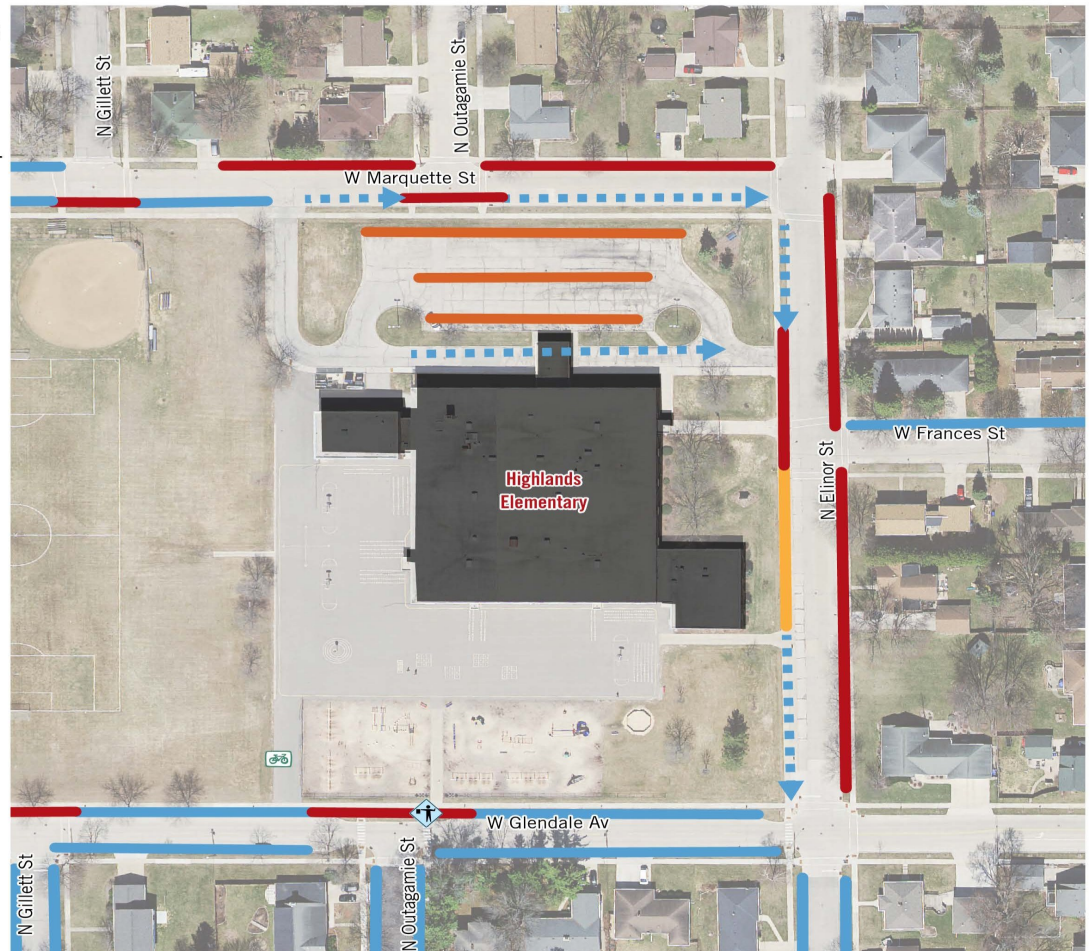
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Feet

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.



Monthly Newsletter

March 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 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.



FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SPOTLIGHT

What's on the menu this month?



Honeydew Melon

- Honeydew is the sweetest of all melons.
- Honeydew can have white or yellow skin. Melons with white skin taste sweeter than the yellow-skin variety.
- The center of the fruit has seeds which are scooped out before eating.



Plant Power Power Up!

Add plant power to your favorite meals! Top your morning cereal with sliced fruit, add extra vegetables to a sandwich such as cucumber or avocado, or partake in meatless Monday.

FUN FACTS



There are over 7,000 varieties of apples around the world!

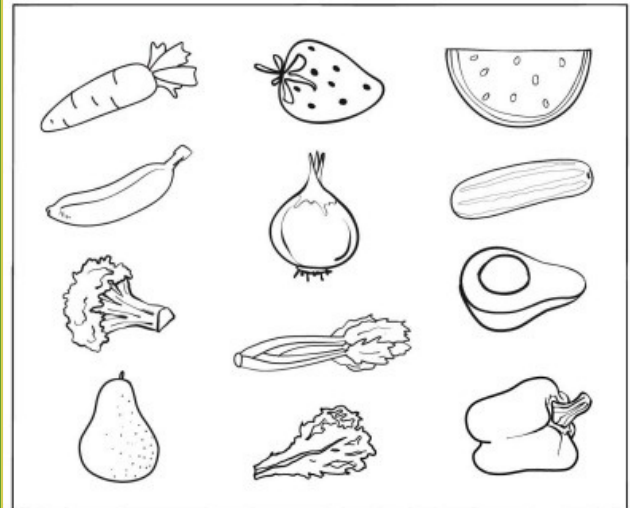


Apples will float in water because they are 25 percent air.

Fun with fruits and veggies
Have some fun with fruits and veggies and check out the game below.

Fruits and Vegetables

Circle all the fruits. Cross out all the vegetables.
Count the fruits and vegetables and write them down.



How many fruits?

How many vegetables?

www.cleverlearner.com

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)

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

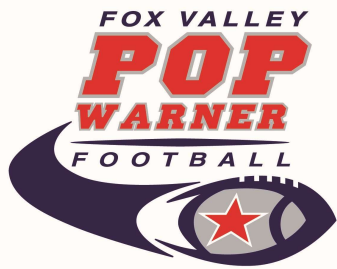


No web access to register?

Please call or text 920.944.8081



Pre-printed flyers graciously donated by:



Fox Valley Pop Warner Football 2026 Season Registration



Fox Valley Pop Warner Football, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

Working together, to create better athletes and better people, through youth football for 53 years.

REGISTER ONLINE

Online Registration starts February 8th, 2026

www.foxvalleypopwarner.org

Registration Periods and Rates

- Early Registration Period - February 8 - 28
- Regular Registration Period - March 1 thru April 30
- Late Wait-List Registration Period - May 1st & later
- Rates are listed for each program type by registration periods
- *FLAG program requires Fundraiser program participation
- *TACKLE program requires Fundraiser and Volunteer program participation
- *Cheer program requires Fundraiser and Volunteer program participation
- **Players are registered on a first-come, first-served basis, based on openings available. Number of Team & Player openings are Limited**
- **Returning players register by April 30 to have priority on school area team**
- **Financial assistance is available for those in need. If you feel this applies to you, call 920-738-1948 for further information. Financial assistance can only be provided in advance of a registration submittal.**

Girls Flag Program (5v5)

- 4th thru 8th Grades (Grade as of September 2026)
- Regular Registration; \$30 – Feb 8th thru April 30th
- Late Wait-List Registration; \$50 – May 1st and later
- No Tryouts - No Drafts - Practice starts August 17th
- Games start Wednesdays (after Labor Day)
- Team jerseys, shorts, FLAG belts provided for season use

NEW 2026 – FLAG for 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade



Tackle Football Program

Boys and Girls

- 3rd Grade - Rookie Tackle 8v8
 - 4th Grade - Tackle 11v11
 - 5th Grade - Tackle 11v11
- Grade as of September 2026

- Early Registration; \$120 - February 8 - 28
- Regular Registration; \$145 - March 1 thru April 30
- Wait-List Registration; \$165 – May 1st and later
- Grade-Weight Ranges:
 - 3rd Grade is 45 - 120 lbs.
 - 4th Grade is 50 - 135 lbs.
 - 5th Grade is 55 - 160 lbs.
- No tryouts - No drafts
- All football equipment is provided for season use
- Practice starts August 17th
- Games start September 12th (after Labor Day)
- Games are played at Plamann Park

FLAG Football Program (5v5)

Boys and Girls

- 2nd thru 8th Grades (Grade as of September 2026)
- Early Registration; \$50 - February 8 - 28
- Regular Registration; \$60 - March 1 thru April 30
- Wait-List Registration; \$70 – May 1st and later
- No Tryouts - No Drafts - No Weight Limits
- Practice starts August 17th
- Games start September 12th (after Labor Day)
- Team jerseys, shorts, FLAG belts provided for season use

Challenger League - Flag Football

Boys and Girls with Disabilities

- 2nd thru 12th Grades (Grade as of September 2026)
- Regular Registration: \$25
- For more information on the Challenger League
www.foxvalleypopwarner.org
www.facebook.com/challengerleaguefootball

Cheer Program

- 2nd thru 8th Grades (Grade as of September 2026)
- Regular Registration; \$100 – Feb 8th thru April 30th
- No Tryouts - No Drafts, Practice starts August 17th
- Games start September 12th (after Labor Day)
- Team uniforms provided for season use

Interested in Coaching?

Fill out a coaching application on our website

**Interested in Volunteering as a League
Committee Member or Board Member?**

Call 920-738-1948



To register or for further information go to our website:
www.foxvalleypopwarner.org
or call 920-738-1948

Scan to Register