



Stratton Sentinel

April 2026

Monthly Newsletter

What's In This Month's Issue:

- Letter from the Principal
- School News & Events
- PTA News & Event
- Clubs
- Health & Wellness
- Attendance & Safety
- Monthly Calendar

Stratton's SAC Meeting (School Accountability Committee)

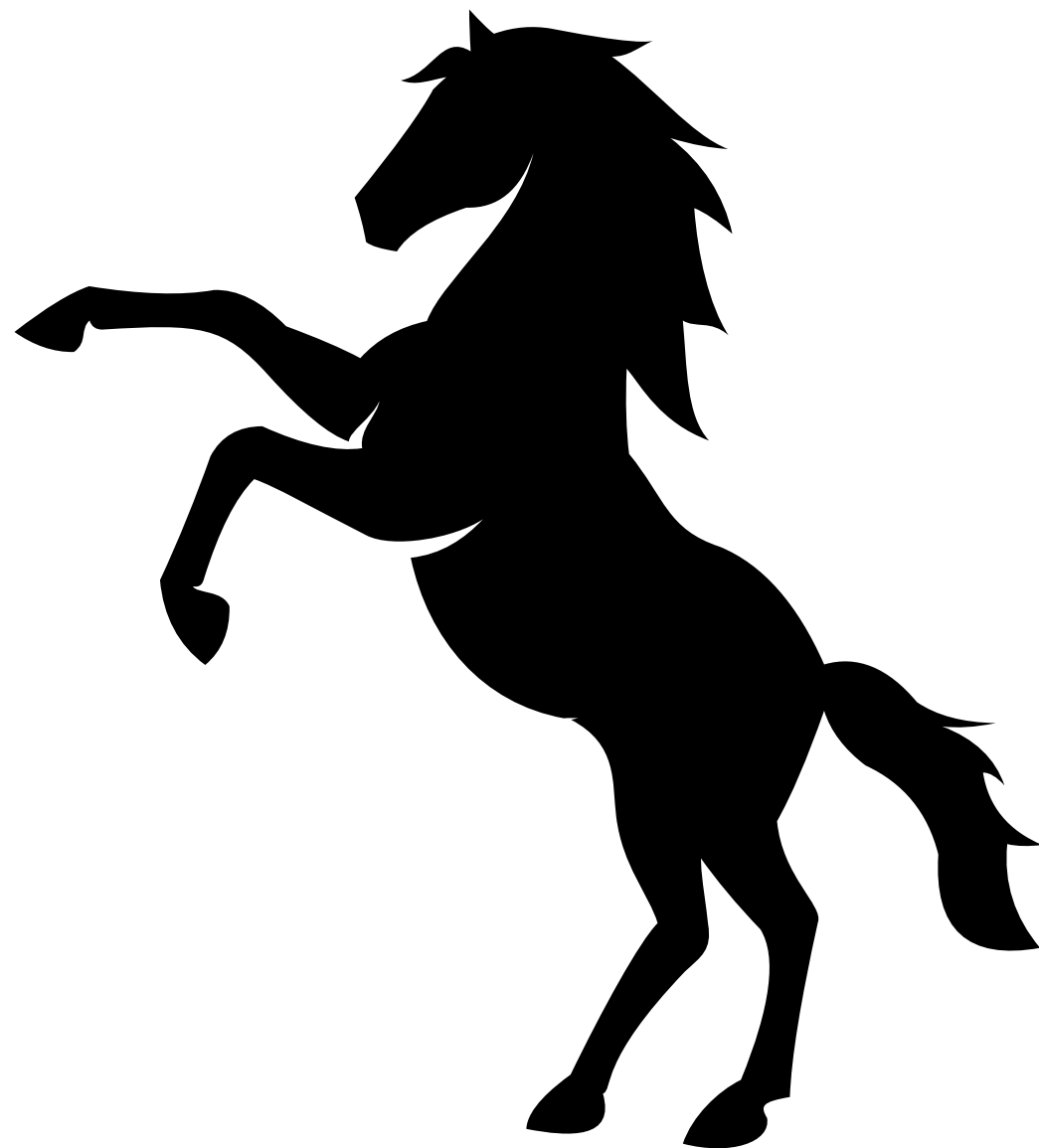
Join Principal Phalen for a conversation. Discuss such topics as school budget, improvement plans, academic achievement, etc.

**Wed, April 15th
5:00-6:00 pm In Person
and via WebEx
(by request)**

Blue Flag =



- Enter the building.
- Hang backpack.
- Sit quietly in hallway until the first bell.



Letter from the Principal

Hello Stratton Families–

Now that we're done with "winter" (if that's what passes for winter this year), we're looking at all our spring activities and events, and I do believe that tiny pinprick of light might be the end of the school year approaching! Before that happens, we obviously have a few things going on, and we want all our families to be part of the action over the next seven weeks!

First up is our annual musical presentation this Thursday...our students and staff have been hard at work to prepare "AnnieKids" for everyone and we're very excited to show off our theatrical talents to everyone! A big thank you to Ms. Davis and our entire staff crew for all their hard work getting our students and our sets ready! I hope to see many of you at the show at Mann Middle School this Thursday evening.

We turn from Theatre to another "T-word"...testing! April is a big month for us with a lot of assessments going on. I am very confident that our students will do a fantastic job on our spring assessments, regardless of what grade or what test they happen to be part of. We need your help getting your students ready for these, as well! The two most important things that families can do are to make sure your child gets a good night's sleep before each test, and to make sure they get breakfast in the morning, whether they eat at home or they eat here at school. If you are bringing your child for school breakfast, we really need them to be here no later than 7:30am and they should go straight to breakfast in the cafeteria—not outside to play until 7:50 and then say "oops I need to eat" and then try to get breakfast (more on that later in this letter). If your student has a water bottle, then making sure that is full in the morning helps as well...and a healthy snack for later in the day also makes a difference!

After all our testing, we'll be ready for May and all the events that come with it, all the way up to the last days of school. More on those in our May letter, but for now there are some very important changes that will be happening here at Stratton beginning on Monday, April 6th. We are asking for your help with two things in the morning; our school breakfast time and student drop off each morning.

First, some drop off changes. On Friday, you will see some new signs up in the "Kiss N Go" lane that give a little direction, specifically to please stay to the right when you are approaching the front door. We are asking that you stay to the right, pull up as far as possible, and then let your child out as quickly as possible. After you have dropped off your child in the "Kiss N Go" lane, please pull over to the left and exit onto Paseo. If you need to get out of your car to help your child, then please park in one of the visitor spots in front of the school, or, consider parking on Paseo on the school side of the street.

We are asking that you do **NOT** pull up on the left and then pull over to the right into traffic to drop off your child. We have had a few close calls with cars narrowly missing one another, and in some cases a car pulls in and blocks the flow of traffic which causes issues at the entrance on Paseo. Beginning on Monday April 6th we will have a few staff members outside helping to direct traffic and move cars along to keep the flow of traffic moving. There will be a couple days to get everyone used to the changes, and then we feel confident that things will run smoothly and safely for our students (and you!).

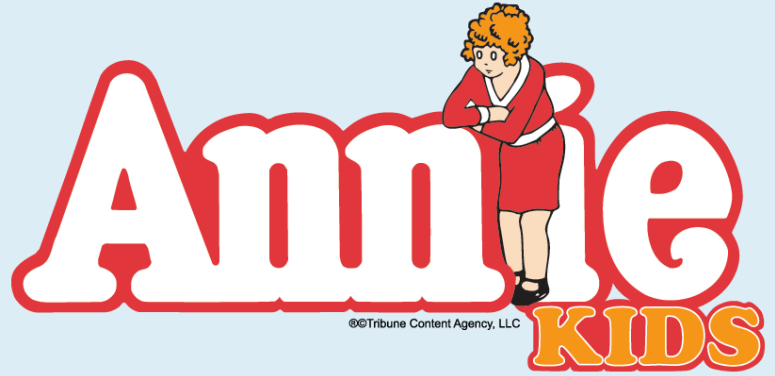
The change for breakfast is a little less complicated—our kitchen will stop serving the "full" breakfast at 7:45am also beginning on Monday, April 6th. Students arriving after that will be able to get a "grab-and-go" option that may include a granola bar (or something similar), a piece of fruit, and water. We are no longer allowing students to take cartons of milk into classrooms—too many spills and we all know what old, spoiled milk in the carpet smells like...

More information and events to come soon. For now, I hope you all had a good Spring Break, and here's the big push to May!

Thanks everyone!
Mr. P

School News & Events

Thursday, April 2nd
5:30 pm
at Mann Middle
School Auditorium



Come see the magic of hard work and talent in action at our **AnnieKids Musical**—students and staff will enjoy a special daytime performance. Families and friends are invited to the evening show at Mann Middle School Auditorium, with **doors opening at 5:00 PM.**

- Concessions available for purchase- Proceeds going to our Musical Department

Kindergarten Goat Show

Thursday, April 30th

Don't miss our **Kindergarten Goat Show**, where our kindergarten classrooms bring The Three Billy Goats Gruff to life with 1st graders narrating this charming short play for families to enjoy!

Bristol's Class- 1:00-1:20 pm
Randolph's Class- 1:25-1:45 pm



School News & Events

Field Trips

Fridays in April for ISP

9:00-11:30 am

3rd- Walmart

10th- John Venezia Park

17th- We Rock the Spectrum



Friday, April 17th

8:00-2:00 pm

Battle of the Books Regional
Competition at Colorado College

Thursday, April 2nd

9:00 - 12:30 pm

Kindergarten to
the Library 21C



CMAS Testing – April 6th–16th

3rd–5th graders will be testing from 8:00–10:30 AM.

Tips for a great testing day:

- Arrive **on time**.
- Get a **good night's sleep**.
- Eat a **nutritious breakfast**.

Please avoid scheduling appointments during testing to help keep classrooms focused and disruption-free.

Kindergarten Round Up



Tuesday, April 14th

5:00-6:00 pm

Future Stratton families
are invited to meet our
teachers, visit
classrooms, and learn
more about starting
Kindergarten at
Stratton.



GMP Info Night

Wednesday, April 8th
5:30-6:30 pm



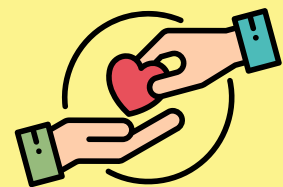
Learn more about
Stratton's Gifted Magnet
Program and discover
how we support and
challenge advanced
learners in a nurturing
environment.



School News & Events

Support Stratton's SPED Resource Room & ISP Students

Celebrating the unique learning styles of our students. Our Special Education team uses hands-on, multisensory methods to make learning engaging and accessible. Help us enhance our learning spaces by scanning their Amazon List for contributions!



Cub Scouts Pack 24 April Meetings

Mon, 6th 6-7 pm
Mon, 13th 6-7 pm
Mon, 20th 6-7 pm
Mon, 27th 6-7 pm

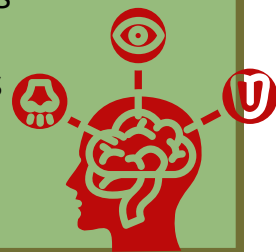


ISP Parent Partnership Series

Friday, May 1st
1:15-2:45 (Library)

This parent partnership offers insights into Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) to enhance your child's communication skills. It provides practical strategies for modeling language and integrating AAC tools into daily home routines.

**AAC
101**



**NO
SCHOOL**

**Friday, April 24th
NO STUDENTS /
Teacher Work Day**

PTA News & Events

Stratton PTA Board

Email- thestrattonpta@outlook.com

President- Anna Rau **Vice President-** Anneliese McCain
Secretary- Noel Erdmann **Treasurer-** Rhonda Ball

PTA Meeting

Tuesday, April 7th

Join us for the upcoming PTA Meeting to share updates, celebrate current initiatives, and plan for an amazing school year!

5:30-6:45 pm

School Library or via WebEx



Thank you

A big thank you to everyone who donated time and baked goods for Chocolate Art Night, and to all the wonderful volunteers who help make our PTA events possible.

PTA CARNIVAL

Friday, April 17th
5:30-8:00 pm

Games

wristbands will be \$8.00

• **PRIZES** •

\$1.00 Cake Walk



Presales After School:

- Fri, April 10th
- Mon-Thurs, April 13th-16th

\$5 Meal Deal tickets

Food



School Clubs



2nd Grade Art Club

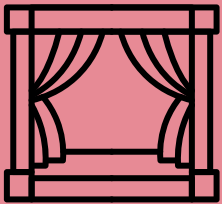
Thursdays
2:50-3:50 pm
(Last Day, April 9th)

3rd-5th Grade Art Club

Thursdays
2:50-3:50 pm
(Starting April 16th)

Choir Rehearsal "Annie"

Wednesday, April 1st
3:00-5:00 pm
at Mann Middle
School



Wednesday, April 1st
3:00-5:00 pm
at Mann Middle
School

Stage Crew



Battle of the Books

Tuesdays Thursdays
2:50-3:50 pm (During Lunch)
(Last Days, April 14th & 16th)

Yearbook Club

Wednesdays
(During Lunch Recess)



Mondays
2:50-3:50 pm

Student Council

YES Club

Thursdays
2:50-4:50 pm



Health & Wellness

Counselor's Corner



Hi Stratton Families!

National School Counselor Week is February 2nd – 6th! To celebrate the week, I wanted to bring some awareness to what a school counselor does day in and day out to support students and the overall culture of the school.

Elementary school counselors support all students' academic, social-emotional, and career development. Through classroom lessons, small groups, and individual support, counselors help students build skills like managing emotions, solving problems, making positive choices, and feeling connected at school. They also collaborate with families, teachers, and administrators to create a safe, supportive learning environment where every child can grow and thrive.

In a gist, I want students to know they belong in this world and here at school. I couldn't imagine doing this job at a better school than Stratton and the #1 reason is the amazing students we have here.

As always, if you have any concerns or questions regarding your student – please reach out to me as I am a firm believer that the more supportive adults in a child's life, the better.

Cheers!

Taylor Combs

719-328-3405 or taylor.combs@d11.org



LINQ
Connect
ONLINE PORTAL

Free and Reduced/FEDS Combo Application

Even though the students are eating their meals for free, other benefits [to apply](#) are:

- Possible reduction of fees for programs both within District 11 and outside of District 11
- Qualified students will receive Summer Electronic Benefits (S-EBT) in the summer when school is not in session
- Additional funding for schools and District 11 thereby providing an enhanced educational experience for students

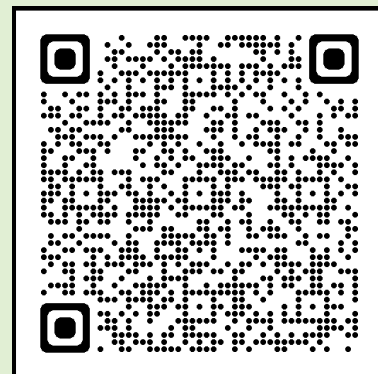
School Breakfast & Lunch Menus

Please scan the QR Code for Breakfast and lunch menus.

Menus are subject to change based on availability.



**Breakfast
is served
at 7:30 am**





Attendance & Safety

Attendance Matters

Good attendance sets students up for success! Being at school every day helps children build strong learning habits, stay connected with their teachers and classmates, and keep up with important skills that build day by day. Every school day counts—and together we can help our students shine by making attendance a priority.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up:

- Drop-off starts at 7:35 AM.
- Pick-up is at 2:50 PM. Please arrange timely pick-up.



Kiss & Go Lane

The Kiss and Go Lane is a pull-through only. Pull to the right lane as far up as you can to drop off or pick up students. Please do so safely and quickly. **DO NOT PARK OR EXIT YOUR VEHICLES.** The left lane is used for exiting the Kiss and Go area. **DO NOT** let students out or pick up while in the left lane. For safety students **must** exit on the sidewalk.

Employee Parking Area

The employee parking area is **strictly reserved** for staff, buses, daycare, and "Hop, Skip, Drive" student pick-up only.

Parents are not permitted to use this area for student drop-off or pick-up.



April 2026



Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
			<p>1</p> <p>Yearbook Club During Lunch Recess</p> <p>Annie Choir Cast & Crew Rehearsal 3:00-5:00 pm @ Mann Middle School</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Kindergarten field trip to Library 21C 9:00-12:30 pm</p> <p>Battle of the Books During Lunch</p> <p>2nd Grade Art Club 2:50-3:50 pm</p> <p>YES Club 2:50-4:50 pm</p> <p>AnnieKids Performance 5:30 pm @ Mann Middle School</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>5th Grade Continuation Pictures</p> <p>ISP field trip to Walmart 9:00-10:30 am</p>	4
<p>5</p> <p><i>Happy Easter</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p>StuCo 2:50-3:50 pm</p> <p>Cub Scouts Pack 24 6:00-7:00 pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Battle of the Books 2:50-3:50 pm</p> <p>PTA Meeting 5:30-6:45 pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Yearbook Club During Lunch Recess</p> <p>GMP Info Night 5:30-6:30 pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Battle of the Books During Lunch</p> <p>YES Club 2:50-4:50 pm</p> <p>2nd Grade Art Club 2:50-3:50 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>ISP field trip to John Venezia Park 9:00-11:30 am</p>	11
12	<p>13</p> <p>StuCo 2:50-3:50 pm</p> <p>Cub Scouts Pack 24 6:00-7:00 pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Battle of the Books 2:50-3:50 pm</p> <p>Kindergarten Round Up 5:00-6:00 pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Yearbook Club During Lunch Recess</p> <p>SAC Meeting 5:00-6:00 pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Battle of the Books During Lunch</p> <p>3rd-5th Grade Art Club 2:50-3:50 pm</p> <p>YES Club 2:50-4:50 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Battle of the Books Regional Comp 8:00-2:00 pm @ CC College</p> <p>ISP field trip to We Rock the Spectrum 9:00-11:30 am</p> <p>PTA Carnival 5:30-8:00pm</p> 	18
19	<p>20</p> <p>StuCo 2:50-3:50 pm</p> <p>Cub Scouts Pack 24 6:00-7:00 pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>2nd Grade Nature Navigators Visit</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Yearbook Club During Lunch Recess</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>3rd-5th Grade Art Club 2:50-3:50 pm</p> <p>YES Club 2:50-4:50 pm</p> <p>AnnieKids Cast Party 3:00-4:00 pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>No School For Students / Teacher Work Day</p> 	25
26	<p>27</p> <p>StuCo 2:50-3:50 pm</p> <p>Cub Scouts Pack 24 6:00-7:00 pm</p>	28	<p>29</p> <p>Yearbook Club During Lunch Recess</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Kindergarten Goat Show 1:00-1:50 pm</p> <p>3rd-5th Grade Art Club 2:50-3:50 pm</p> <p>YES Club 2:50-4:50 pm</p>		