



2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

READY, SET, SUMMER

Monona Grove School District Official End of School Guide



Monona Grove Families,

As we wrap up another successful school year, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we have celebrated many moments that reflect the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and families.

This newsletter was created to help your family finish the school year strong and prepare for what's ahead. Inside, you'll find important end-of-year reminders, summer resources, and updates to help you plan for the 2026-27 school year.

Thank you for being an important part of the Monona Grove community. We look forward to welcoming our students back in the fall for another great year of learning and growth.

Have a safe, restful, and joyful summer!

DR. TANYA L. FREDRICH
SUPERINTENDENT



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KEY DATES



JUNE 4

MG21 Senior Graduation

JUNE 7

MGHS Graduation

JUNE 9

Last Day of School (Full Day)

JUNE 22

Summer School Begins

JULY 17

Last Day of Summer School

JULY 24

Transportation Requests Due for 2026-27 School Year

AUGUST 10

Districtwide Photo Day at MG21

AUGUST 20

Districtwide Photo Day at GRS

MID-AUGUST

2026-27 Schedules Released

AUGUST 25

Back to School Night - GRS

AUGUST 26

Back to School Night - CGS, GDS, WS

SEPTEMBER 1

First Day of School

 [View our website for the full calendar](#)
(including a printable PDF!)

END OF YEAR CHECKLIST



- Return library books to school
- Sign up for school photo day - email sign up coming soon!
+ sign up to volunteer at school photo days & receive a complimentary photo package!

SUMMER HOURS



June 8-August 14

DISTRICT OFFICE

Mon-Thurs: 7:30am-4:00pm

Fri: Closed to the public

COTTAGE GROVE SCHOOL

Mon-Thurs: 7:30am-4:00pm

Fri: Closed to the public

GLACIAL DRUMLIN SCHOOL

Mon-Thurs: 7:30am-4:00pm

Fri: Closed to the public

Friday's During Summer School: Office may close once all buses have departed

GRANITE RIDGE SCHOOL

Mon-Thurs: 7:30am-4:00pm

Fri: Closed to the public

Friday's During Summer School: Office may close once all buses have departed

MG21 CHARTER SCHOOL

Closed to the public for the summer

MONONA GROVE HIGH SCHOOL

Mon-Thurs: 7:30am-4:00pm

Fri: Closed to the public

Friday's During Summer School: Office may close once all buses have departed

WINNEQUAH SCHOOL

Mon-Thurs: 7:30am-4:00pm

Fri: Closed to the public

Friday's During Summer School: Office may close once all buses have departed



TRANSPORTATION

Anyone who needs transportation must please complete the [2026-2027 Transportation Sign Up](#). No student(s) will be automatically routed.

All transportation requests are due by **July 24, 2026**.

[Please make sure to reference our interactive map](#) before signing up for transportation.

Buy A Bus Seat fees have increased slightly. These rates impact resident and non-resident students who live outside the established transportation zone for the school they will be attending. Buy a Bus Seat fees are not eligible to be waived.

All transportation notifications will be sent to families via the Stopfinder app.

Contact

Nelson's Bus Service

mononagrove@nelsonsbusservice.com

608-221-8417

MGSD Transportation

transportation@mgschools.net

[SCHOOL BUS SAFETY & BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS](#)

[GUIDE TO TRANSPORTATION QUESTIONS](#)

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR 2026-27



Online Registration (OLR) for the 2026–27 school year will open in mid-July. All families are asked to log in to the Infinite Campus Parent Portal to review and update household information, complete required forms, and confirm student enrollment for the upcoming school year.

Completing Online Registration helps ensure that schools have the most up-to-date contact information and allows families to access important back-to-school details, including schedules, fees, and transportation information.

Families will receive an email notification as soon as Online Registration is available, along with step-by-step instructions and helpful resources. We encourage all families to complete registration as soon as possible so your student is ready for a smooth start to the new school year.

YEARBOOKS FOR 2026-27



Beginning next school year, the cost of student yearbooks will increase to \$15 per copy. This updated price helps cover both the cost of producing the yearbook and shipping expenses to the school. The yearbook fee will be available in Infinite Campus for families to pay online.

SAFETY: WHY OUR OLR UPDATES MATTER



When we talk about school safety, we often think of building systems and drills—but information is one of our most critical tools.

In the event of an emergency requiring a Standard Reunification Method (returning students to their families in a controlled way), we depend on the information you provide during Online Registration (OLR) to safely reunite students with their families.

Why it matters during Reunification:

- **Student Release:** Students will only be released to individuals listed as approved contacts in our Student Information System, Infinite Campus. A valid photo ID is required, and it must match the information in Infinite Campus. This process is designed to ensure every student is released safely and only to authorized adults.
- **Real-Time Alerts:** We use your primary phone and email to send updates. If your information is outdated, you may miss critical messages.
- **Efficient Reunification:** Accurate contact information helps prevent delays at check-in, allowing staff to reunite students with their families as quickly and smoothly as possible.

Please take a few minutes during this summer's OLR to review and update your contact information. Your attention to these details plays a vital role in keeping our students safe.



UPDATE TO MORNING SUPERVISION FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

At Monona Grove, we are always looking for ways to ensure our schools are safe and our students are ready for a successful day of learning. As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we are sharing an adjustment to our morning routines.

Beginning next fall, we will be narrowing the window of time for supervised student arrival for 4K-8th graders in the mornings to 15 minutes before the bell (see below for school start times). This change is designed to ensure that our staff can be fully present and properly positioned to monitor students during the busiest part of the morning. By concentrating our supervision resources into a more focused timeframe, we can provide a higher level of safety and more consistent support for all students as they enter the building.

We know that morning routines can be a balancing act for families. If your student is eligible for the bus, this is the most reliable way to ensure they arrive when supervision is available. We are sharing this early in order to give you plenty of time to plan for the fall. As we get closer to the start of the new school year, we will provide specific building-level schedules, exact supervision start times, and updated routines for arriving at school.

Thank you for your partnership in keeping our school community safe and prepared!

School Start Bell Times

Cottage Grove School
7:45am

Granite Ridge School
8:00am

Glacial Drumlin School
8:00am

Winnequah School
7:45am



AN UPDATE ON PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES POLICY FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

With the passage of 2025 Wisconsin Act 42, often referred to as the statewide school cell phone ban, all school boards in the state must adopt a policy that prohibits the use of personal communication devices (including phones and watches) during instructional time.

In alignment with this law, the Monona Grove School Board will update its policy on personal communication devices. By law, exceptions to this policy will include:

- Emergency situations or perceived threat,
- Managing a student's health care needs
- Approved accommodations included in an IEP or 504 plan
- Educational purposes explicitly authorized by a teacher during instructional time.

We understand that a policy shift like this involves practical questions regarding day-to-day logistics, family communication during emergencies, and building-specific needs. To ensure a smooth transition, our principals and building leadership teams will be working diligently over the summer months to develop clear, age-appropriate, written guidelines outlining exactly how this policy will look on a daily basis at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Research and our own educational experience consistently demonstrate that the constant presence of smartphones creates a powerful digital distraction, directly competing with academic engagement and genuine social interaction. By creating "phone-free" spaces during the school day, our goal is two-fold:

- **Enhancing Engaged Learning:** Eliminating the urge to check notifications allows students to deeply focus on instruction, collaborate more meaningfully with peers, and improve academic retention.
- **Prioritizing Equity and Mental Well-being:** A uniform policy reduces the social pressures and anxieties tied to the digital world, leveling the playing field so every student can feel safe, included, and present in their learning environment.

Please look for a detailed update later this summer which will outline specific procedures—including how devices will be stored and how families can reliably contact students during the school day for urgent matters.

TRANSITIONING TO NON-EDIBLE BIRTHDAY AND CLASSROOM TREATS

We strive to create learning environments where every student feels safe, included, and ready to learn. To better support the health of our students and align with our District Wellness Policy, we are transitioning to a non-edible treat policy for birthdays and classroom celebrations, effective at the start of the 2026-27 school year.

Why the Change?

Our classrooms are home to many students with life-threatening food allergies and diverse nutritional needs. By moving away from food-based treats, we:

- **Ensure Safety:** Remove the risk of accidental exposure to allergens.
- **Promote Inclusion:** Ensure that every child can participate in celebrations regardless of dietary restrictions.
- **Support Wellness:** Adhere to our commitment to promoting healthy habits across all grade levels.

Creative Ways to Celebrate

We know that birthdays are special milestones! We encourage families who wish to share something with the class to consider "experience" gifts or small non-food items, such as:

- **Donating a Book:** Donate a book to the classroom library in your child's honor.
- **School Supplies:** Fun pencils, stickers, bookmarks, or erasers.
- **Active Play:** Bubbles, bouncy balls, or temporary tattoos.

Please do not send cupcakes, candy, or other food items to school for birthday recognitions. Any food items sent to school for this purpose will be stored in the school office during the day and returned home with the student.

For the occasional classwide, grade-level, or schoolwide events that may involve food, we are also committed to ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all students. Families will receive timely communication regarding the event and any food items involved. All food items will be carefully reviewed by staff to ensure they meet our allergy safety standards and protect all students.

We appreciate your partnership in making our schools a safer, more inclusive space for all our learners. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please reach out to your building principal.

COMING 2026-27: EASIER SCHOOL COMMUNICATION WITH TALKINGPOINTS

Beginning in the 2026–27 school year, Monona Grove will use TalkingPoints to help families and students communicate more easily with teachers, principals, coaches, and club leaders. TalkingPoints keeps all school-related messaging in one secure, district-approved platform designed with student safety and data privacy in mind.

For Families

Families do not need to sign up to begin using TalkingPoints. Messages will automatically be sent to the cell phone number listed in Infinite Campus. You can reply directly by text message in your preferred language, or download the TalkingPoints for Families app for additional features. If you choose not to receive messages, you can unsubscribe at any time by texting STOP or GOODBYE.

For Students (Age 13+)

Student participation is optional. Students who choose to opt in can send and receive messages through the TalkingPoints app or by standard text message. They only need to enroll once, and their phone numbers are never visible to staff. If a student chooses not to opt in, school email will be the only method staff can use to communicate with them.

Helpful Tips

- Download the TalkingPoints for Families app if you want enhanced messaging features.
- If you want to return to text messages after using the app, be sure to log out of the app before deleting it.
- If you unsubscribe and later want to rejoin, contact your student's teacher or principal for instructions.

We're excited to offer this secure and convenient tool to strengthen communication between home and school.



UPDATES ON 4K-2 CONSOLIDATION & LONG RANGE FACILITIES PLANNING

As part of the district's long range facilities planning process, the Monona Grove School Board approved the consolidation of Monona Grove School District 4K-2 programming in Cottage Grove beginning with the 2026-27 school year. Starting this fall, all Cottage Grove-area students in grades 4K-2 will attend school at Cottage Grove School.

We are excited to welcome students and families into one unified school community led by Principal Jesse Starr and Associate Principal Katherine Brown. Planning for the transition is already underway to help ensure a smooth and positive experience for students, staff, and families.

The district is also continuing broader long range facilities planning discussions related to enrollment trends, building capacity, and future facility needs across the district. The Board recently reviewed information regarding district-owned properties and potential future considerations as part of this ongoing planning process. At this time, discussions regarding Maywood were informational only, and no action has been taken by the Board.

Families and community members can stay informed by visiting the district's [Long Range Facilities webpage](#), where updates, timelines, meeting materials, FAQs, and additional resources will continue to be posted throughout the process.

Meet the School Board



From left to right:
Stephanie Lehmann (treasurer), Philip Haven (vice president), Susan Manning (member), Rachelle Miller (clerk), Janice Stone (member), Elizabeth Cook (president), Eric Hartz (member)

Access [BoardDocs](#) for meeting agendas, minutes and materials.

Meet the District Leadership Team



From left to right:
Christa Foster (Dir. of Student Services), Angie Fassel (Dir. of Elementary Teaching & Learning), Kristin Sobocinski (Deputy Superintendent), Rob Meyer (Dir. of Secondary Teaching & Learning), Tanya Fredrich (Superintendent), Katy Byrnes Kaiser (Information & Strategy Officer)

Learn more about our [district departments](#) on our website.

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 WWW.MONONAGROVE.ORG

