

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2026

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

As we wrap up another school year, I want to thank our students, families, teachers, and staff for a wonderful year.

Our students have worked hard, learned new skills, and grown in many ways. We are proud of their accomplishments and the kindness, effort, and enthusiasm they bring to our school each day.

Thank you to our families for your support and partnership throughout the year. Your involvement helps make our school a great place to learn and grow.

I hope everyone enjoys a fun, safe, and relaxing summer. Keep reading, exploring, and making special memories with family and friends.

Thank you for a great year. We look forward to seeing you again in the fall! For our 5th grade graduate families, best of luck in Middle School!

Sincerely,
Jenna Fernholz
Principal, Hamilton/SOTA I



IMPORTANT DATES

- August 4th - National Night Out
- August 18th - Open House
- August 20th - First Day of School
- September 3rd - Picture Day
- October 8th - Picture Retake Day

Hamilton & SOTA I

Summer School for Those Registered

July 6th - 30th

Monday through Thursday

8:00am-12:00pm

MOVING THIS SUMMER?

Please call the school office with your new address so we can get your back to school mailer to you.



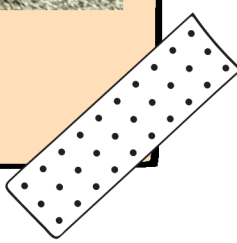
MAY STAR STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



ATTENDANCE PRIZES



These students had 98% or high attendance level for the school year. Congratulations!



LIBRARY

Academic Biathlon

The SDLAX HPL Academic Biathlon is a creative problem-solving adventure that teaches and rewards creative and divergent thought processes, cooperative brainstorming, general intellect, leadership, and a flair for the dramatic—all while providing an entertaining and educational experience for all. Four-person teams will complete the Academic Biathlon while displaying good sportsmanship and teamwork. Each team showcased the outcomes of creativity and positive risk-taking. This past week a Hamilton team of Teddy, Mya, Kaylee and Juanita and a SOTA I Team of Finnley, Margo, Juniper, and Avie traveled to the School District of La Crosse District Competition at the Black River Beach House. Both teams of them did a wonderful job of problem solving during the STEM sprint and answering questions on the final research round. Congratulations to them and thank you for representing our schools.

Matt Hessel Mial

A huge congratulations to Juanita, a 4th grade student in Ms. Ross's class (Hamilton). She won second place for 4th grade in the thirty-sixth annual Matt Hessel-Mial Creative Writing Contest! In his eight years, Matt exercised his passion for writing by writing creative short stories, some of which were published such as *The Great Planet Swap!* In keeping his spirit for creative writing and curious imagining alive, the annual writing contest aims to inspire writers in grades second thru fifth to share their unique storytelling talents! Students must write a fictional story. Topics are unlimited! In addition to a copy of Matt's book, she also won a backpack filled with goodies and cookies for her class.

Screen Smart Families

Mrs. Harden and Mr. Z were the proud recipients of a grant from the La Crosse Public Education Foundation. In collaboration with community partners, we propose to host a series of family workshops focusing on current trends, cyberbullying prevention, and understanding privacy settings on popular technology apps (Digital Citizenship). Digital citizenship is essential for students to navigate the online world safely, ethically, and effectively, preparing them for future academic and professional success. It teaches responsible behavior, including online safety, cyberbullying prevention, digital literacy, privacy protection, and managing a positive digital footprint to avoid costly mistakes.

Digital citizenship is vital for parents to ensure their children remain safe, ethical, and respectful while using technology. It helps parents manage risks like cyberbullying, protect digital reputations, and teach critical thinking, ensuring kids act responsibly online while managing screen time and navigating misinformation effectively.

More information to come!

Check out these Digital Resources for families over the summer and all year long! Keep the learning going by using our school's digital resources. Simply login through ClassLink!

Keep reading!
Mrs. Harden

Explore our digital library!



teaching. learning.
reading. exploring.

Hamilton/SOTA I

All digital resources can be found in the Library Resources folder in Classlink



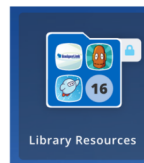
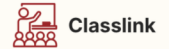
Contact:
Carrie Wuensch-Harden
Librarian
cwuensch@lacrossesd.org



School District of La Crosse students have many resources available to them via the ClassLink hub ~ accessible via any device at home for use all year long!

Logging In is Easy!

1. Go to www.lacrosseschools.org and click on the "Classlink" button (scroll down a bit!)
2. Your student can log in with their district login credentials (see 2nd page for how to get this information)



Once logged into ClassLink, students can navigate to the Library Resources folder to access all of the content they have available via their school library programming!

Access eBooks, audiobooks, databases, and more at home via ClassLink!



Accessing Student Logins

Do you need your student's district login information? Here is how to find it!

1. Go to www.lacrosseschools.org and click on the "Skyward" blue button.
2. Login with your Skyward Family Access login/password.
3. On the left side of the screen, click on "Portfolio"
4. Under your child's name, click on the link for "Network Information-Login/Password (SCHOOL NAME)".
5. The report will run and display your child's network/email login and password



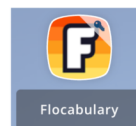
If you need help getting logged into your Skyward Family Access account, please contact your student's school main office.

Hamilton/SOTA IDatabases

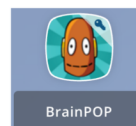
All databases can be found for both staff and students via Classlink - Library Resources folder



Britannica School is a general encyclopedia, available at the Elementary / Middle / High levels.
Access provided by Badgerlink



Flocabulary's 1,300+ standard-aligned video-based lessons and activities leverage the power of hip-hop, storytelling, and emotional connections
Paid for via our school's Common School Funds



Build the background knowledge that textbooks assume your students already have. Discover relatable characters, humor, and storytelling that help students understand new concepts and engage with grade-level content.
Paid for via our school's Common School Funds



Digital learning and research platform designed specifically for elementary school students. Features thousands of informational articles and ebooks spanning animals, science, social studies, health, and biographies.
Paid for via our district's Common School Funds

Remember that all research should start with

DATABASES!



Common School Fund



Supporting Public School Libraries

The Common School Fund is a constitutionally created trust fund administered by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands to benefit all public school libraries in Wisconsin. Distributions of the Fund's interest are used by school librarians to purchase library program materials accessible to all students.

Purchasing Items

According to Statute, Common School Fund purchases must be for the school library program. This includes library books and instructional materials, as well as computers and related software for school libraries. Purchases require consultation with the district's licensed library media specialist.



Monitoring and Distributing Funds

Allotments are determined by population reported in the district census. In January, estimates for allocations are made, and funds are distributed to districts by May 1. Library plans and other records of purchases must be kept for reports made to the State Superintendent.

Learn More

Common School Fund - <https://dpi.wi.gov/libraries/school-libraries/common-school-fund>
Board of Commissioners of Public Lands - <https://bcpl.wisconsin.gov>



WHAT IS THE COMMON SCHOOL FUND?

Did you know that the vast majority of money spent in Wisconsin public school libraries comes directly from Wisconsin's Common School Fund?

School Districts receive an annual distribution of earnings from the Common School Fund. These funds (commonly known as Library Aid) are used to purchase library books and other instructional materials. The Common School Fund is the primary, and often only, source of funding for school libraries in Wisconsin. Managed by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL), the Common School Fund was established by the Wisconsin Constitution in 1848 with the granting of about 1.5 million acres of land for educational purposes. The vast majority of these lands were sold to create the principal for a permanent school fund, with the earnings to be exclusively used to support and maintain common schools (now known as K-12 public schools) and the purchase of suitable libraries and apparatus therefor. The Wisconsin Constitution also provided for the growth of the Common School Fund principal through the addition of clear proceeds of all fines, fees, and forfeitures, including unclaimed property.

Source: Wisconsin DPI Common School Fund Page <https://dpi.wi.gov/libraries/school-libraries/common-school-fund>



JUNE 2026

Breakfast is served with FF chocolate or white milk.
 Breakfast choice #2 is always cereal.
 Lunch includes fruit, veggie, and choice of milk.
 Menu is subject to change.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 French Toast Sticks <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Roast Chicken #2 Yogurt	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 Breakfast Pizza <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Quesadilla #2 EZ Jammer	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 Muffin <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Spaghetti & Meat Sauce #2 Yogurt	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 Scrambled Eggs <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Pizza #2 EZ Jammer	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 Cinnamon Roll <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Hamburger #2 Yogurt
8	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 Waffles <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Corn Dog #2 Yogurt Meal	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 Breakfast Pizza <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Cheese Filled Breadstick #2 EZ Jammer	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 Breakfast Bread <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Orange Chicken #2 Yogurt	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 Omelet <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Pizza #2 EZ Jammer	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 Breakfast Sandwich <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Pulled Pork #2 Yogurt Meal
15	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 French Toast Sticks <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Chicken Patty #2 Yogurt Meal	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 Breakfast Pizza <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Beef Nachos #2 EZ Jammer	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 Muffin <u>LUNCH</u> #1 French Toast & Omelet #2 Yogurt	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 Scrambled Eggs <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Pizza #2 EZ Jammer	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 Cinnamon Roll <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Meatball Sub #2 Yogurt Meal
22	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 Waffles <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Fish Sticks #2 Yogurt	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 Breakfast Pizza <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Breaded Ravioli #2 EZ Jammer	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 Breakfast Bread <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Mac & Cheese #2 Yogurt Meal	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 Omelet <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Pizza #2 EZ Jammer	<u>BREAKFAST</u> #1 Breakfast Sandwich <u>LUNCH</u> #1 Hot Dog #2 Yogurt Meal

Summer Meal Program 2026

School District of La Crosse

All Sites CLOSED JULY 3rd

Sites:	Dates:	Times:	Days:
*Emerson	6/1-8/7	Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 Lunch: 11:30-12:30	M-F M-F
Northside	6/8-8/7	Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 Lunch: 11:30-12:30	M-F M-F
	6/1-8/7		
*Spence	6/1-8/7	Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 Lunch: 11:30-12:30	M-F M-F
**Hamilton	6/1-8/7	Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 Lunch: 11:30-12:30	M-F M-F
	7/6-7/31		
*Hintgen		Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 Lunch: 11:30-12:30	M-F M-F
Summit		Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 Lunch: 11:15-12:15	M-F M-F
Longfellow	6/1-8/7	Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 Lunch: 11:30-12:30	M-F M-F
	6/1-8/7		
LoganMiddle	6/1-6/26	Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 Lunch: 11:30-12:30	M-F M-F
Central		Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 Lunch: 11:30-12:30	M-F M-F
**Logan High	6/1-8/7	Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 Lunch: 11:30-12:30	M-F M-F

**THE SUMMER MEAL PROGRAM OFFERS FREE MEALS TO ALL STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS 18 YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER!
JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST AND LUNCH AT ONE OF THE SITES LISTED ABOVE!**

*Y Summer Surround Care Sites
**BGC Summer Meal Sites

***** Times, dates, and locations are subject to change *****

Free meals help fuel active kids

Emplify Health by Gundersen is serving FREE meals to any child aged 18 and under as part of the Summer Food Service Program. These tasty meals help fuel kids so they can stay active, healthy and happy over the summer.

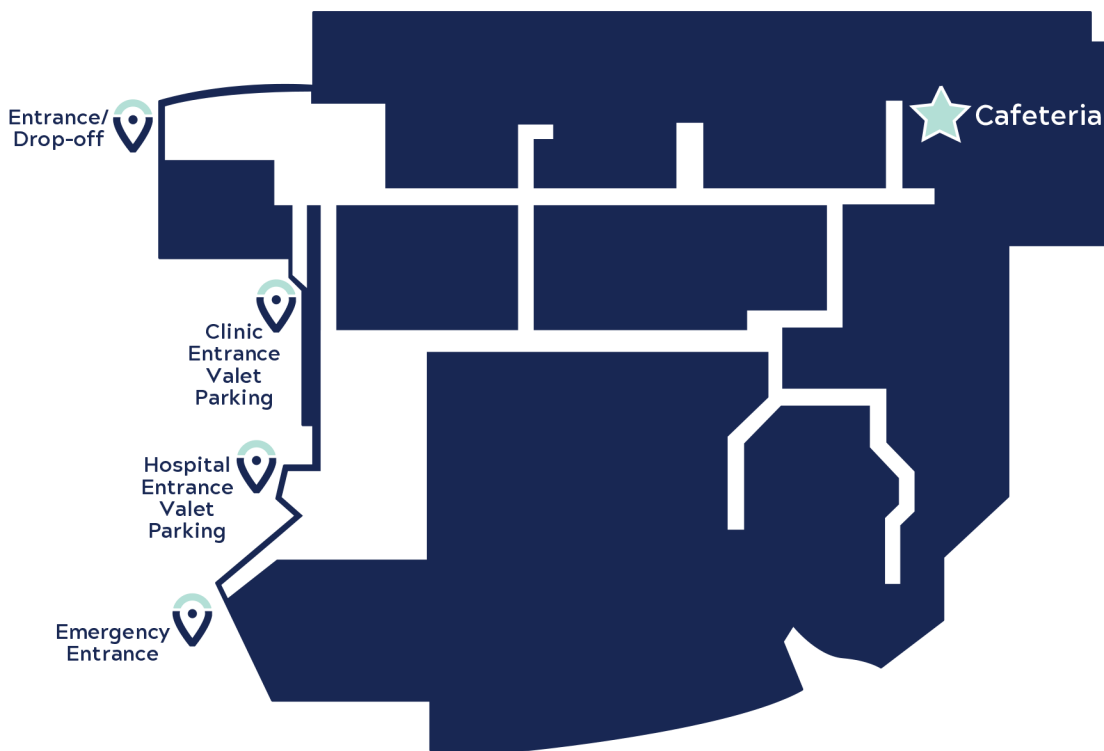
There's no need to sign up, just show up and enjoy! Please remember to be respectful, be responsible and be kind.

Free meals are available Monday-Friday in the Emplify Health by Gundersen Cafeteria, June 1 to Aug. 19, excluding July 4:

Breakfast 6:30-9:30 a.m.

Lunch 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Please enjoy your meal onsite. Thank you



Look for the purple octopus in the cafeteria to identify foods included in this program!

This is an equal opportunity provider.



— JOIN US FOR A —
*Celebration of Freedom,
Culture & Community!*



JUNETEENTH

◆ HONORING THE PAST • CELEBRATING THE PRESENT • INSPIRING THE FUTURE ◆



SATURDAY
JUNE 20TH, 2026



12PM – 8PM



RIVERSIDE PARK
100 STATE STREET
LACROSSE, WISCONSIN



A Day of Unity. A Future of Possibility.



FOOD

Delicious food
for everyone!



FREE

FAMILY GAMES
& ACTIVITIES



**MUSIC
DANCING**

Live music &
good vibes all day!



**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

Come as you are.
Everyone belongs.

Our History. Our Freedom. Our Future. ❤️



LAXJUNETEENTH@GMAIL.COM



608-881-6418



GROW Hamilton / SOTAI Garden Party

FREE
SUMMER
FUN

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Tues., June 23rd

GARDEN PARTIES FEATURE:

- Hands-on Activities
- Garden Exploration
- Time in Nature
- Community Connection

GARDEN PARTY SUMMER 2026 5 – 6:30 PM

- Tuesday, June 16th, Hintgen Elementary
(a combined celebration of the Hintgen & State Road garden programs due to construction.)
- Tuesday, June 23rd, Hamilton / SOTA I Elementary
- Thursday, July 9th, La Crescent – Hokah Elementary
- Thursday, July 16th, Spence Elementary
- Tuesday, July 21st, Northside/Coulee Montessori
- Wednesday, July 22nd, North Woods International
- Thursday, July 23rd, Emerson Elementary
- Thursday, July 30th Summit Environmental Elementary
- Wednesday, August 5th Southern Bluffs Elementary



All are welcome at these FREE Garden events. Any weather related changes can be found on social media and at www.GROWLaCrosse.org.



THE GOOD FIGHT

BE PREPARED FOR LIFE



SUMMER PROGRAMMING

AT THE GOOD FIGHT COMMUNITY CENTER

WHAT IS THE GOOD FIGHT?

ACOMMUNITYCENTERFORKIDS,LOCATED IN LA CROSSE!

WHAT IS THE SUMMER PROGRAM?

- **11WEEKS,JUNE1-AUGUST14TH**
- **MONDAY-THURSDAY, 10AM-6PM**
PART-TIME & DROP-IN AVAILABLE!



(SOME)

ACTIVITES WE HAVE PLANNED:

PET DAYS

**SOCIALIZEDOGS&CATS WITH THE
COULEE REGION HUMANE SOCIETY &
LA CRESCENT ANIMAL RESCUE!**

STEM ACTIVITIES WITH THE EAA

**FLY DRONES & EXPERIENCE A FLIGHT
SIMULATOR!**

YOUNG EAGLES FLIGHTS

**COMMUNITY GARDENING AT
THE HUNGER TASKFORCE!**

**ASSIST THE WISCONSIN
DNR WITH GOOSE BANDING!**

Hamilton Elementary Open House

August 18, 2026 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

1111 South 7th St. La Crosse, WI 54601 608-789-7695

Please Complete Student Info Update Prior to Open House.
Supplies can be brought during open house.



Student Info Update: Opens July 1, 2026

1. **Login** to the [Skyward Family Access Portal].
2. **Select** "Go to Student Info Update" for your student.
3. **Update** each tab with current details.
4. **Save & Submit.**
 - o **For assistance**, contact the school's Main Office: 608-789-7695



Scan to get step-by-step directions or visit: lacrossesd.org/enrollment/student-info-update/



Key Dates:

- **Picture day:** September 3, 2026 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- **Picture Retake:** October 8, 2026
- **First Day of School:** August 20, 2026 7:45 AM to 2:25 PM