

The Spinning Hills *Spectator*



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October 1, 2026

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL!



As we get into October and the season begins to change, please make sure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the cooler weather. It is hard to believe, but the first quarter ends on Friday, October 30th. Students will be dismissed two hours early that day at 11:40 AM.

Parent-teacher conferences will begin on Thursday, November 12th from 2:15 PM to 6:00 PM. Conferences will also be held on Thursday, November 19th from 2:15PM to 6:00 PM as well as Friday, November 20th from 7:00 AM to 2:45 PM. Information regarding how to schedule a conference will be sent out by your child's teaching team. Please make every attempt to sign up

to meet with your child's teachers during this time. If there are any academic questions or concerns at all, it is crucial to set a plan in place so your student can be successful for the remainder of the school year.

For those of you that drop your child off at school in the mornings, please remember that the building does not open until 6:55 AM. There are a number of students being dropped off prior to the doors opening. This typically isn't an issue during the warmer months but I want to reiterate that the doors will not open until 6:55AM regardless of the temperature outside. Keep this in mind prior to dropping your child off in the mornings.

Finally, this school year we implemented a building wide attendance goal of 94% with the slogan "Every Day Counts". We have incentives built in that teams can earn throughout the year based on their ability to reach that mark. You may have heard your child talk about getting popcorn at lunch or wearing pajama pants to school. That was due to their team reaching the attendance criteria for those specific rewards. There are many more in place throughout the year and we hope that each team can enjoy all of the planned rewards. Keep encouraging your students to be at school everyday!!

Mike Combs

Principal



Upcoming Events

Mon. Oct. 10	No School/ Waiver Day
Thurs. Oct. 22	Picture Retakes
Fri. Oct. 30	End of First Qtr. Early Release 11:40

SCHOOL FEES

This is a reminder, if you owe for any outstanding school fees (i.e. missing library books/laptop repair), you may send money in with your child or pay online at the following link www.payschoolscentral.com.

Thank You

Spinning Hills Staff

HELPING YOUR MIDDLE-SCHOOL STUDENT ACHIEVE BETTER GRADES

Parents who want to help their children succeed in school must strike the proper balance. They should be involved—but not too involved. They should set limits—but allow freedom. They should encourage their kids to excel—but not expect perfection. However, it's not as hard as it might sound to help your kids enjoy their academic experience. As the first quarter progress reports come home, this is a great time to establish household routines that help you and your child. Below are 10 tips from experts on how to make this year a great one for your family.

Create a routine. Kids benefit from having structure in their home life. Some examples are getting up at the same time each morning, eating a nutritious breakfast, and instituting a positive bedtime ritual that includes 20 minutes of reading (up to middle school).

Prepare for the morning the night before. Avoid morning chaos by eliminating the need for last-minute decisions. A bad morning typically lingers on throughout the school day.

Help your child get organized. Organization extends beyond assembling the next day's materials. Kids need help developing a system for storing and retrieving items so that they feel in control of their success.

Provide a quiet place for homework, but let your child work alone. A regular time and a good workspace to complete homework are essential, and homework should be a household priority. Remember that the work is your child's responsibility, not yours.

Limit distractions. Television, computers, and video games can be a huge competitor for your child's attention, especially when it comes to homework, so limit these activities, at least on school nights.

Encourage intellectual curiosity. Engage your child in dinner-table conversations. Share your own interests or talk about current events. You will instill a love of learning.

Allow free time. Every child needs time to unwind, so be sure that at least part of each day is free of responsibilities. On the flip side: avoid over-scheduling.

Build relationships with teachers. Open the lines of communication. Ask questions and be proactive with your concerns. Share the Progress Book password with your child so he/she can monitor their own grades/assignments.

Focus on effort rather than grades. Is your child working hard? Can they work independently? Show confidence in your children's abilities, but set realistic goals frequently. Strive for improvement, not perfection.

Learn how to step back. When evaluating your child's overall performance, be careful not to let your own ambitions take over. Resist the urge to micromanage your child's education. School is your child's job, not yours.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Picture Re-Takes

Thursday, Oct. 22, 2027

Order forms are available, in the office,
or you can order online:

www.mylifetouch.com

Picture ID#: EVT2CS3T7

ONEVIEW FORMS

Please complete all school forms on-line under the One-View Portal as soon as possible. It is very imperative that these forms are done in case of an emergency with your child. All forms must be completed in order for your child to attend any school field trips. Below is the information to access OneView. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the main office.

1 Go to madriverschools.org

2 Click on **Parent OneView Access** under the **Quick Links** tab on left hand side of page.

DEB ANDREW'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Good news! Starting Friday, Oct. 9th, popcorn and pretzels will be sold during Students' lunch period in the hall outside the cafeteria. The proceeds go to the Deb Andrews Scholarship Fund that is awarded to graduating seniors from Stebbins High School. We will be selling popcorn for \$.50 a bag and HOT Pretzels for \$1.00. Again, please don't forget to bring some extra change every Friday so you can enjoy this special treat.

*All food is to be eaten in the cafeteria.

**WEATHER/SCHOOL CLOSING/SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

If bad weather causes school to close, please remember we are **Mad River Local Schools**. You can call the school to listen to the greeting for information on closing or tune into you local television and radio stations.

**School Attendance**

If your child is absent, you need to call the school that day and send a note the next day.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

12 No School/Waiver Day

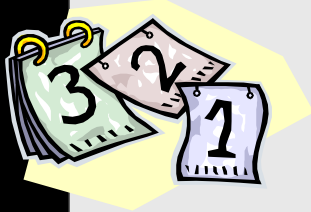
22 Picture Retakes

30 End of first Grading
Period — Early Release 11:40

20 No School—Parent/Teacher Conferences
7:00 AM—2:45 PM

20-23 6th Gr. Wash. DC Trip

23-27 No School—Thanksgiving Break



NOVEMBER

3 No School—Waiver Day

6 5K Walk/Run

12 Parent/Teacher
Conferences 2:15-6:00

19 Parent/Teacher
Conferences 2:15-6:00

DECEMBER

8 5th & 6th Grade Choir Concert - 6:00 @
Stebbins Auditorium

10 6th Grade Band & Orchestra Concert -
6:00 @ Sp Hills

18 Last School Day before Winter Break

21—Jan. 3 Winter Break

5K Walk/Run

Date was postponed to
November 6.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

The transportation department is in need of Substitute Bus Drivers. If you are interested, please contact Amy Gibson, Transportation Supervisor at 237-4280.

