



December Newsletter

Message from the Principal

Summit Families,

There are lots of amazing things happening at Summit! Students continue to rise to the level of expectation! As a result, we are intentional about highlighting their successes, so we will utilize positive behavior referrals to honor students' efforts!

As a building, attendance has been a focus this year as we understand the importance of accessing high-quality core instruction, which is made possible by physically being in a school building. At Summit, we introduced an attendance challenge of 95% attendance from mid-October to the end of November. Our students exceeded this goal and engaged in a building-wide Rock, Paper, Scissors Contest! Sixth graders from the Odyssey community took home the Summit G.O.A.T. trophy as a prize!

Recently, our Staff Engagement leadership group hosted an event where staff engaged in "underground" dress up days! It was rewarding to witness the inquisitiveness of our students coupled with the pure joy experienced by our staff!

We had legislative members and district office staff visit Ms. Darsee and Mrs. Weaver's classrooms. Students showcased their skills as individuals observed and interacted with students and staff in these spaces.

Kaniesha Pettaway, Principal

Important Upcoming Dates

Monday, December 9th

No School, Staff Professional Development
School Board Meeting, District Office at 6 pm

Monday, December 16th

6th Grade Winter Chorus Concerts
A Day Students at 6:00 pm
B Day Students at 7:00 pm
Summit Middle School

Tuesday, December 17th

7th Grade Winter Chorus Concerts
Boys Choir at 6:00 pm
Girls Choir at 7:00 pm
Wallace Elementary School

Monday, December 23rd - Thursday, January 2nd

No School, Winter Break

The image shows a detailed academic calendar for Johnston Area Community School District for the 2024-25 school year. It includes a grid of dates with color-coded indicators for school days, holidays, and breaks. Key events are listed on the right side of the calendar, such as the start of school, various holidays (including Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's), and the end of the school year. The calendar also includes a legend for symbols used in the grid, such as 'No School Day', 'School Day', 'Holiday', and 'Break'.



Summit Winter Chorus Concerts

Monday, December 16th

6th Grade Winter Chorus Concert, A Day Students
6:00 pm Performance

6th Grade Winter Chorus Concert, B Day Students
7:00 pm Performance

Location: Summit Middle School

Tuesday, December 17th

7th Grade Boys Choir Concert
6:00 pm Performance

7th Grade Girls Choir Concert
7:00 pm Performance

Location: Wallace Elementary School

Counselor Corner

December 2024

What We Learned

During the month of November, we learned about how to “grow your brain”, develop a “growth mindset”, persevering through mistakes and failures as well as awarding teachers with Above and Beyond Awards from our students.

All Summit students will expand their knowledge about “SMART goals” throughout the month of December.



Resources

- **Virtual Calming Room:** This site has lots of tools and strategies to help manage emotions positively: <https://virtualcalmingroom.net/>
- **Grief Support:** Check out Hamilton Funeral Home’s updated Community Resource Booklet- <https://assets.hamiltonsfuneralhome.com/November-2024-Community-Resource-Book.pdf?v=1728937739>

Reminders

As the weather begins to get colder, please send your student with hats, gloves, and coats for recess. If you are needing any assistance with these items please consider reaching out to the Johnston Partnership at johnstonpartnership.org. The Partnership has other services available which can be found on their website.

Counselor Contacts

Last Names:

Lauren Heston (A-G)
Bri De Moss (H-N)
Shannon Brock (O-Z)

Message from School Nurse

It's that time of year when we begin to see an increase in rates of illness and the spread of communicable diseases. Please utilize the information below when deciding to keep your student home or send them to school. If your student is experiencing symptoms listed below, please note those symptoms when reporting your student absent. This will allow me to quickly review and exempt their absence or follow up with you directly.

Do NOT
send your children to school if they:

-  Have a fever of 100.4 or more. The student should stay home for 24 hours after the temperature returns to normal without fever-reducing medication
-  Have vomited or had diarrhea or unexplained abdominal pain. The student should stay home until 24 hours after the last episode
-  Have a rash that may be disease-related or from an unknown cause
-  Have swelling, redness, tenderness, or discharge from eyes
-  Have a severe cold and/or persistent cough
-  Have tested positive for a communicable disease (i.e., COVID-19, influenza, pertussis (whooping cough), etc.)

Immunization Information for Current 6th Graders

All current 6th graders will need **ONE** of the following **BEFORE** the first day of 7th grade:

1. An updated Immunization Record with a documented **Tdap** (after the age of 10)

and **Meningococcal** Vaccine

- Schedule an appointment with your child's doctor **OR**
- Schedule an appointment at the Polk County Public Health Department

2. A Religious Exemption Form - Signed by parents and submitted to school nurse

- Can be found at the following website: https://iris.iowa.gov/docs/Certificate_of_Immunization_Exemption_Religious.pdf

3. A Medical Exemption Form

- Schedule an appointment with your child's doctor as they will need to fill out and sign this form for your child.

If one of these documents is not submitted prior to the first day of the 2025-2026 school year, your student will not be able to come to school until this has been submitted.

Collecting Donations

The Health Office is always looking for donations of the following for our hygiene closet:

- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Period Products (Pads, Tampons)
- Pants (Youth XL - Adult XL)
- T-Shirts (Youth XL - Adult XL)
- Sweatshirts (Youth XL - Adult XL)

The items are stored in the nurse's office and available to any students who may need them.

Please send donations with your student OR drop them off in the front office at Summit Middle School.



Reminders & Updates

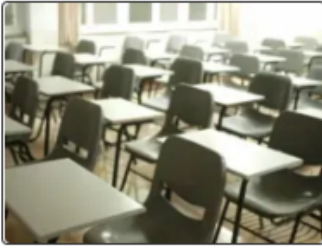
Cellphones and Other Electronic Devices:

If cellphones and/or electronic devices are brought to school, students are responsible for these items. This includes cellphones, watches, ear buds, etc. The school is not responsible for loss or damage to personal items.

Electronics should **NOT** be used throughout the school day, including during class, lunch, recess, and in restrooms. We want to ensure every student has access to quality instruction with limited distractions.

Inappropriate use of electronics may result in a removal of the item for student use.





Student Absences

If your child will be absent, arriving late or needs to leave early due to an appointment or other reasons, please report using Infinite Campus. The Absence Request tool in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal allows you to report your student's absence online with just a few clicks. Follow these simple steps:

1. Log in to your [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#) account, either by computer or Parent Portal App on your mobile device.
2. Select your child's profile.
3. Navigate to the Absence Request section.
4. Fill in the required information, including the date and reason for the absence.
5. Submit your request.

You may also report an absence by calling 515-986-0941. This line is available 24 hours to leave a message. You may also send an email to asoda@johnston.k12.ia.us

If your student is at school and needs to leave for any reason, it needs to be facilitated through the nurse or office. In addition, if you are picking up your child, you must enter the building to sign them out. We appreciate your assistance!

Pick-Up & Drop-Off Guidelines

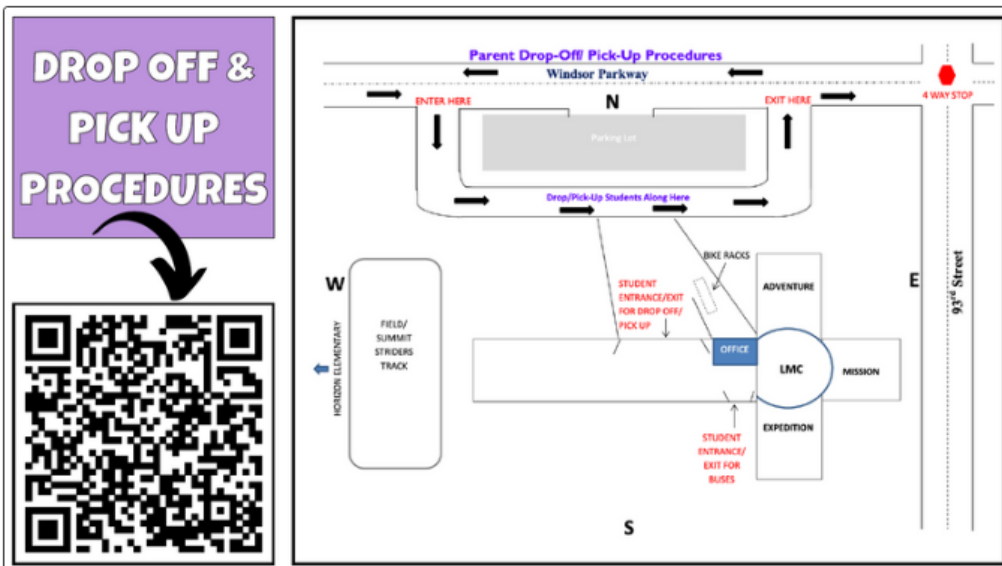
Here is some guidance on how to help make pick-up and drop-off traffic flow smoothly:

1. Staff will be on duty at the front of the building from 7:30 - 7:40 am for arrivals.
2. Staff will be on duty from 2:50 - 3:00 pm for dismissal.
3. Pull your vehicle all the way up behind the car in front of you when in the carpool lane for pick-up & drop-off. If you are first in line, drive past the entrance and stop at the second light pole.
4. Parking lot drop-offs are not permitted for safety reasons.

Important Reminders:

An ordinance with the City of Johnston states that drivers are not allowed to block a crosswalk under any circumstances. When a crosswalk is blocked, Crossing Guards are not allowed to assist students across the street until the crosswalk is clear. It can also create issues for neighborhood walkers, joggers and cyclists.

Thank you for your cooperation and support as we work together to keep our students safe!



News from Summit Middle School PTO

A graphic with a wood-grain background. At the top left is the Summit Middle School PTO logo, which features a stylized 'S' with a flame-like tail and the word 'SUMMIT' in a bold, outlined font, with 'MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO' underneath. To the right of the text are festive Christmas items: a red bowl of white cookies, a red Santa hat on a wire rack, a wooden reindeer rocking chair, and a red gift bag with a white star pattern.

Summit
MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO

No December Meeting

**Cookie Walk - Dec. 18th -
Parent Square email sent
to donate**

**No School
Dec. 23 - Jan. 2**

**Need a reminder about
meetings or just want to
be more connected?**

**Follow us on
Facebook!**



SUMMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL

9500 Windsor Parkway
Johnston, IA 50131

Office: 515-986-0318
Fax: 515-986-0952
Attendance: 515-986-0941
Nurse: 515-986-0931