



February Newsletter

Message from the Principal

Summit Families,

Happy Black History Month! Throughout the month of February, our students and staff are building their capacities around the contributions of influential African Americans throughout history!

As a staff, we will engage in learning on February 17th and 18th around various building topics, as well as, preparation for spring conferences and the upcoming ISASP test that will be administered to students in April. Additional information around specifics of ISASP testing will be sent to families as we get closer to April.

Kaniesha Pettaway, Principal

Important Upcoming Dates

Monday, February 10th

School Board Meeting, District Office at 6 pm

Monday, February 17th - Tuesday, February 18th

No School - Presidents Day, Staff Professional Development

Monday, February 24th

6th Grade Band Concert
Green's Students at 5:30 pm
Tipping's Students at 6:30 pm
Summit Middle School

School Board Meeting, District Office at 6 pm

Tuesday, February 25th

7th Grade Band Concert Gold at 5:30 pm
Jazz Band Concert at 6:20 pm
7th Grade Band Concert Purple at 7:15 pm
Summit Middle School



COUNSELOR CORNER

February 2025 Newsletter

Dragon Time:

This month, students will continue their career exploration through Xello. Students kickstarted the program by learning about their interests and taking a career matchmaker quiz! Follow along your student's journey by accessing your parent account! Contact your school counselor if you need any help logging in to your family's account.

The Xello logo is a green rounded square with the word "xello" in white lowercase letters.

Contact

Last Names:

Lauren Heston (A-G)

Bri De Moss (H-N)

Shannon Brock (O-Z)

Resources

Easterseals Iowa Brain Health:

Emotional Regulation Therapy Group - Coping Skills and Beyond

Check out the attached flyer if your child is interested in joining a small group outside of school through Easterseals Iowa Brain Health.

Email therapy@eastersealsia.org or call 515-309-2032 to enroll!

Upcoming Events

- **7th to 8th Grade (Virtual) Parent Night:** Jan. 21st at 5:30pm via Zoom:
<https://zoom.us/j/94179357636#success>
- **7th to 8th Grade Scheduling** with JMS Counselors Feb. 5 & 6.
- **6th to 7th Grade Scheduling** will take place in February.





..... Emotional Regulation Therapy Group – Coping Skills and Beyond

This group is a therapeutic group where teenagers learn to regulate their emotions with more than a few common coping skills. Group sessions will cover emotional regulation skills through the Skills System by Julie Brown. This system helps individuals learn how to regulate and manage emotions, be present in the moment and effectively manage stressful situations.

JOIN US!

- An emotional regulation group for teenagers grades 7th through 12th
- Tuesdays from 4:30pm – 6:00pm
- March 4 – May 27 • No group on March 18
- Easterseals Iowa - Building 1 – Front Medium Conference Room
401 NE 66th Ave, Des Moines, IA 50313
- Group will be facilitated by Kris Clark, LMSW
- Open to all abilities and covered by most insurance companies

REGISTRATION

To enroll please email Easterseals Iowa Brain Health at therapy@eastersealsia.org or call 515-309-2032. Please include age and grade of child.



News from around the school!



Team Mission South

In December, students in Team Mission South spent a week planning and creating sustainable winter centerpieces to brighten the day of residents at the Urbandale Care Facility. The task was to use sustainable, recycled materials to create a unique, sturdy and structurally sound centerpiece using 5 or more materials. They brainstormed ideas using a set of criteria and collaborated with peers to bring in and build the winter centerpiece. Students showed off their centerpieces and voted on their favorites and then Mr. Hiatt took to the Urbandale Center Facility. They were so thrilled to have them!

Summit Guest Speaker Event

In January, 7th grade students had the opportunity to meet a local author, Rebecca Yanni and learn from her expertise about the writing and editing process to prepare them as they begin writing children's stories over economic concepts in social studies. It was an engaging and interactive presentation with lots of takeaways students can directly apply in their social studies classes.



Fusion News

January was a busy month for Fusion (7th Grade Show Choir). Fusion began their performances January 14th at JHS for the Family & Friends show with clinician Mrs. Melody Clutter. On January 24th, they performed at Showzam where Clara Sorrell & Jayden Nguyen were named Star Performers. Fusion students met a mentor from Innovation & Bella Voce show choirs at the Student Show on January 27th and finished their season on January 31st at the Ankeny Centennial Mid Iowa Championships. Competing in the Novice Division they brought home 2nd Place and Henry Scott was named Star Performer. Congratulations Fusion!

Garden Club News

The Summit Middle School Garden Club is hosting a Spice Drive from February 3-14. Students are encouraged to drop off containers of single spice flavors (think Tones, McCormicks, etc.) in the bin that can be found in their community and will be labeled for the Spice Drive.

Partnership patrons are able to use spices to bring flavor and enjoyment to their meals! Help spice up someone's life by making their meal taste nice! If you have questions, please contact allison.barlow@johnston.k12.ia.us. Thank you!



FROM THE LIBRARY

Are you doing some New Year cleaning at home? The Summit Library is seeking donations!

We are looking for gently used books, arts and crafts supplies, and games. If you have anything to donate, please send it to school with your student or drop off in the office. Thank you!



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

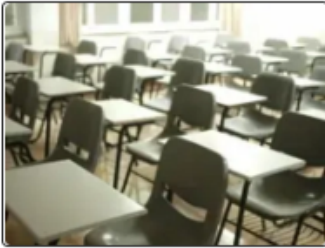
- Schedule an appointment with your child's doctor as they will need to fill out and sign this form for your child.

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.

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

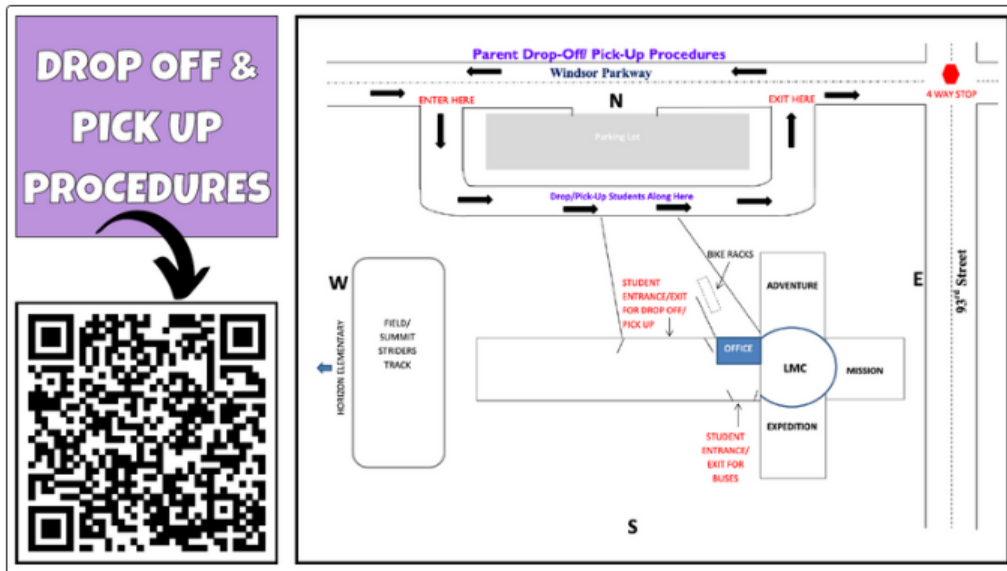
Here is some guidance on how to help make pick-up and drop-off traffic flow smoothly:

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!



SUMMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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