



## January Newsletter

# Message from the Principal

Summit Families,

Winter break has come to a close! We hope you all enjoyed time with your families! Summit staff returned to work Thursday, January 2nd and engaged in learning around Classroom 180, feedback, Check-In Check-Out, AEDs, and newline panels. We are excited to get the second part of the year started and appreciate your continued partnership!

Kaniesha Pettaway, Principal

## Important Upcoming Dates

### Friday, January 3rd

Students return from break

### Monday, January 13th

School Board Meeting, District Office at 6 pm

### Friday, January 17th

End of 1st Semester, End of 2nd Quarter

### Monday, January 20th

No School, Martin Luther King Jr Day  
Staff Professional Development Day

### Monday, January 27th

School Board Meeting, District Office at 6 pm

### Assessment Calendar

- FAST aReading, January 6th - January 24th
- FAST aMath, January 6th - January 31st
- mySAEBRS, January 15th - February 5th
- ELPA, End of January - March

Month	Day	Event
August	13	Back to School
September	2	Labor Day
October	8	Columbus Day
November	22	Thanksgiving
December	17	Winter Break
January	20	Martin Luther King Jr Day
February	19	Valentine's Day
March	14	St. Patrick's Day
April	15	Easter
May	27	Memorial Day
June	19	Juneteenth

# Counselor Corner

January 2025

## What We Learned

### Dragon Time Lessons

During the month of December, we learned about breaking down goals and overcoming roadblocks through the "SMART" goal model. Students implemented these skills to boost participation in existing service projects at Summit including:

- Soles 4 Souls
- Pop Tabs- Ronald McDonald
- Mitten Drive
- Snowglobe Staff Recognition
- Above & Beyond Awards

This month, ask your student about career exploration through Xello. Students will learn about their interests, time management skills, and more!



## Happy New Year



**"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."**

C.S. LEWIS

## Upcoming Events

- 7th to 8th Grade Parent Night at JMS on January 21st at 5:30pm via Zoom. *(Link to be shared at later date)*
- 7th to 8th Grade Scheduling with JMS Counselors early February.
- 6th to 7th Grade Scheduling will take place in February.

## Contact Info

Last Names:

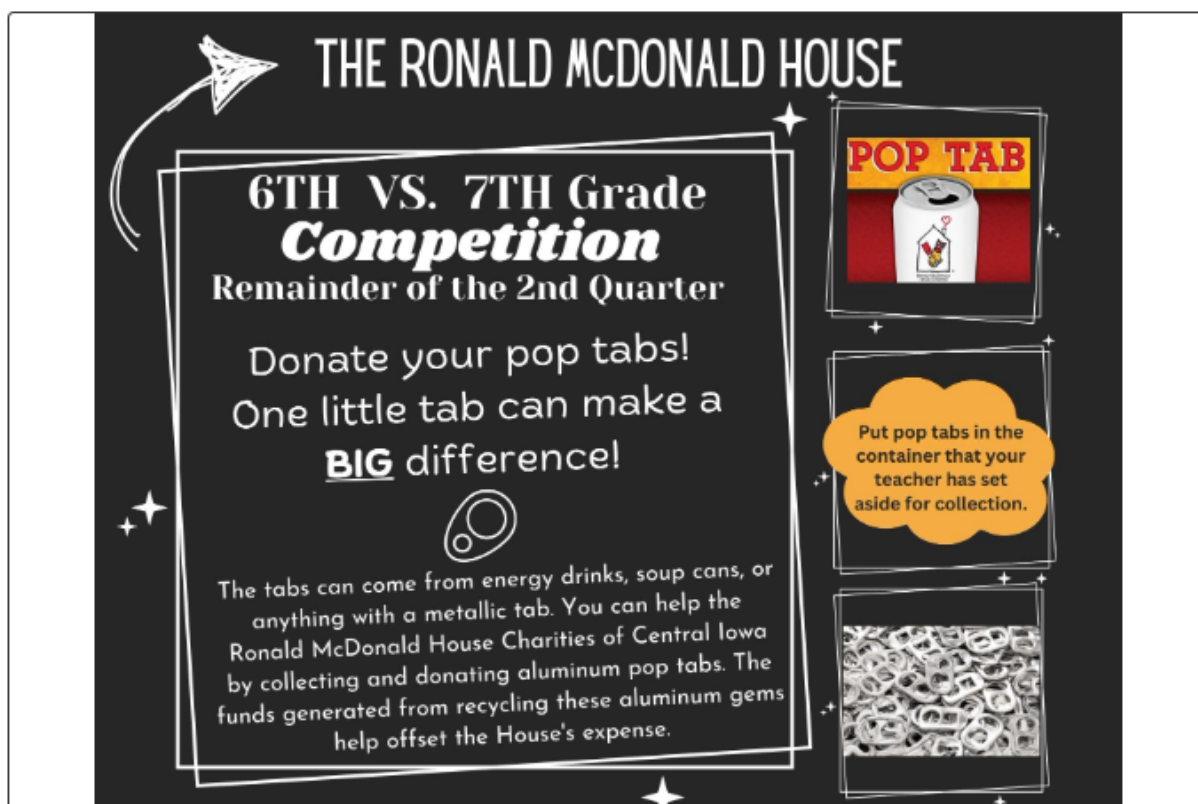
Lauren Heston (A-G)  
Bri De Moss (H-N)  
Shannon Brock (O-Z)

## Ronald McDonald House Service Project

We are excited to share that our student leadership is once again collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Last year's effort was a tremendous success, and we're eager to continue this positive momentum. The collection will run throughout the remainder of the school year and includes a friendly competition between the 6th and 7th grades. Each quarter, the grade that collects the most pop tabs will receive a special prize.

Collecting pop tabs greatly benefits the Ronald McDonald House to provide for families in need with children facing medical challenges. By recycling the pop tabs, funds are generated to provide housing, meals, and support services for families staying at Ronald McDonald houses.

Thank you for your support in spreading the word among our students and their families. Together, we can make a significant impact!



**THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE**

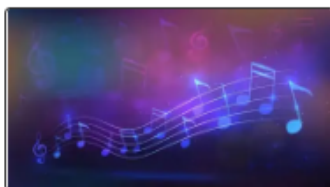
**6TH VS. 7TH Grade Competition**  
Remainder of the 2nd Quarter

Donate your pop tabs!  
One little tab can make a **BIG** difference!

The tabs can come from energy drinks, soup cans, or anything with a metallic tab. You can help the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Iowa by collecting and donating aluminum pop tabs. The funds generated from recycling these aluminum gems help offset the House's expense.

**POP TAB**

Put pop tabs in the container that your teacher has set aside for collection.



## Summit Band News

Summit 6th & 7th Grade Band(s) will host the 2025 Summit Solo/Small Ensemble Festival on February 6th. The festival will take place from 4:00 - 8:00 pm around the building. Family members are welcome to watch their student perform. Students who have chosen to perform will be judged by area music educators, who will provide excellent musical feedback on the performance.

## 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](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

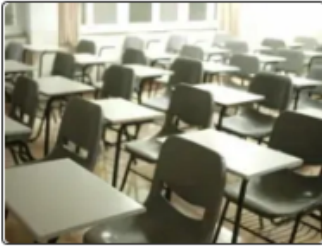
### Cellphones and Other Electronic Devices:

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](mailto: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**

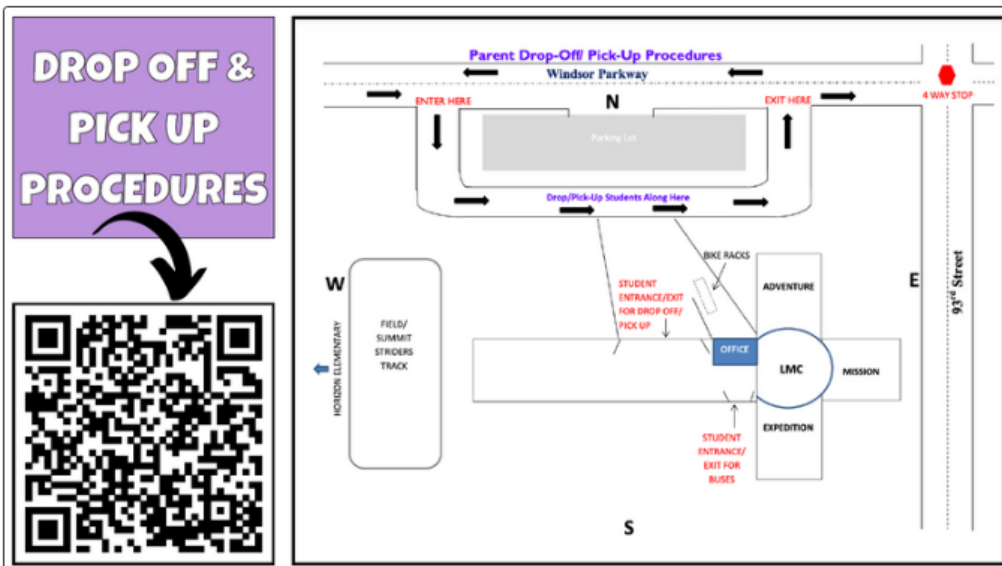
Here is some guidance on how to help make pick-up and drop-off traffic flow smoothly:

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



Thank you to everyone who donated cookies, time and/or money for our cookie walk! The staff loved it and it was a nice beginning to winter break!

**Next Meeting:**

**January 7, 2025  
7pm in the Library at Summit**

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