

SUMMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Summit Families,

Happy October! There are positive vibes going around Summit! We've had an amazing start to the 23-24 school year! Our students and staff have set the bar high! The implementation and consistency of CHAMPS+T, our tier one expectations, has impacted our entire school community in a positive way!



Members of our school board and district office paid us a visit! They were able to get into classrooms and chat with students and staff!

We could not be more proud of our start to this year! Keeping this momentum going will be essential to continued success!

As always, we appreciate your continued support!

Take care!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

October 9th

NO SCHOOL- Columbus Day/Fall Break

OCTOBER 27TH

End of First Quarter

October 30th



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 7:25 AM - 7:45 AM for arrivals.
- 2. Staff will also be on duty from 2:50 PM- 3:00 PM for dismissal.
- 3. When in the carpool lane for pick-up & drop-off please pull your vehicle all the way up behind the car in front of you. If you are first in line, please drive past the entrance and stop at the second light pole.
- 4. Parking lot drop-offs are not permitted for safety reasons. Please be sure to have an adult escort students to the front door if you prefer to use the parking lot.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

A Johnston city ordinance 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 also creates issues for neighborhood walkers, joggers and cyclists.

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

SUMMIT THERAPY DOGS

MEET WINNIE

Winnie is Mrs. Larson's four year old golden retriever. She stays primarily in Mrs. Larson's room and the Voyage community, where she helps the students regulate their emotions and boosts morale for everyone. According to Mrs. Larson, the difference Winnie makes in both the students'

and fellow teachers' lives has been one of the coolest experiences as a teacher. Although Winnie is home with her mom while on maternity leave, she will be eager to meet all the new students and see her old friends in November.



MEET WRANGLER & WRIGLEY

Wrangler and Wrigley are two of Summit's Therapy Dogs that continue to make a positive impact on students and staff at Summit Middle School. Students are welcomed each morning with their wagging tails and are ready to make their day better. Wrigley has joined many classrooms helping promote a positive learning environment and Wrangler is a frequent request to join our school counselors. Loving and loveable, Wrangler and Wrigley are friendly companions and good listeners who make no judgments.



MEET DEX

Dex is one of the therapy dogs at school. He is a red fox lab. He will be 2 years old in October, and he is the only boy dog that is in the building. He loves to help kids while they are in class. His owner, Michelle Guerdet, loves taking him for walks and volunteering at On With Life. His favorite food is hot dogs and turkey deli meat. He only gets these on special occasions. Dex is looking forward to the 2023-2024 school year.

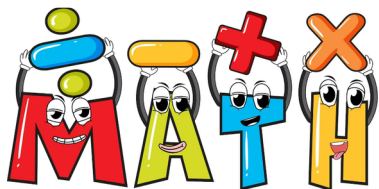


Therapy Dog Opt Out.pdf

[Download](#)

386.5 KB

MATHCOUNTS CLUB



Come join the MATHCOUNTS CLUB!!!

The MATHCOUNTS Foundation is a non-profit organization that reaches students in grades 6-8 in all US states and territories with 3 extracurricular math programs. More than a quarter million students participate in MATHCOUNTS programs or use their

resources each year. At Summit, students meet to solve problems and build problem solving skills. They will meet after school every-other week, on Mondays, starting the first week of October in Ms. Lewis's room in Team Mission. Our first meeting is Oct. 2.

In January, students will begin meeting every week on Monday's after school to get ready for 4 levels of competition. This is open to any student who enjoys problem solving with others in a competitive environment. Our school competition will be in January, a local competition in February, state in March and then the National Competition.

The coaches are Mr. Steve Skinner and Ms. Linda Lewis. Anyone is welcome to join and there are links on the Activities and Clubs Moodle page under MATHCOUNTS.

COUNSELOR CORNER

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October 2023

Now that the year is underway we'd like to give you a snapshot of what students are learning in Dragon Time. Our focus from September was familiarizing students with the school counselors as well as the transition back to school. For October, we will continue to focus on mindset goals and learning from mistakes and failures. A special thanks to students for assisting in our video lessons!

Resource:

Parenting Love & Logic Class:
A six week parenting program designed by the Love and Logic Institute. This parenting program is designed to give you practical skills that can be used immediately.
Learn how to: Avoid un-winnable power-struggles and arguments, set enforceable limits, avoid enabling and begin empowering, help your kids, learn from mistakes rather than repeating them, raise kids who are family members rather than dictators AND MUCH MORE
This program is designed for parents with children of all ages (toddlers to teens)
WHEN: October 2nd ~ November 6th, 2023, Monday evenings 5:30-7:30 pm

HOW TO REGISTER:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/orchard-place-parent-education-course-registration-711388440977?aff=oddttdcreator>

School Counseling

NEWSLETTER

Meet Your School Counselors:

All 6th and 7th grade students have access to their school counselor through individual meetings, small groups, and Dragon Time lessons. Student roster assignments are divided alphabetically by last name. Please see your student's assigned school counselor below.

September Lesson Focus:

Introduction to School Counselors

Mindset



Mrs. Heston
(A-G)



Miss De Moss
(H-N)



Mrs. Brock
(O-Z)

How to Contact Us:

Students can refer themselves to their school counselor by scanning the QR code to the right and completing the Student Referral Form.

Families can reach school counselors through a phone call or email:

lauren.gallo-heston@johnston.k12.ia.us
brianna.demoss@johnston.k12.ia.us
shannon.brock@johnston.k12.ia.us



SUMMIT GARDEN CLUB

The Summit Middle School Garden Club has donated over 550 pounds of produce this gardening season to the Johnston Partnership!

All 6th and 7th graders are welcome to be a part of this group aimed at making a difference in our community, building relationships with peers, and learning gardening basics. We meet most Thursdays from 2:45-3:30. Students must be able to get home by walking or being picked up by a grown up; there is no district transport provided. If you have questions, please email allison.barlow@johnston.k12.ia.us.

Please follow along on our facebook page here: [Summit Middle School Garden Club Facebook Page](#)

STUDENT ABSENCES VIA INFINITE CAMPUS

If your child will be absent or needs to leave early or arrive late due to an appointment or another reason, please follow the attached steps showing you how to send us the absence request through Infinite Campus. This helps limit the number of emails and phone calls to the attendance person and allows us to get the attendance added correctly and more efficiently.

Infinite Campus portal:

https://johnstonia.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/johnston.jsp?fbclid=IwAR1AAjsZATC2wabpqOeJXlryXqxVC_pXdaNXAOebk1y88-LqqnXPbUuGk0

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR REFERRALS



Celebrate

Dear Parents,

As promised, we wanted to share more information about **positive behavior referrals**. What are positive behavior referrals? Positive Behavior Referrals are referrals made by any staff member (teacher, associate, admin. etc.) that sees a student going above and beyond the expected behavior. Each week we have a behavior focus that will be shared in the announcements. This behavior focus is shared with the students during Dragon Time and Monday announcements. Staff then fill out a referral when they see your student following that focus of the week. Staff also fills out a referral if they see your student going above and beyond in any area. These referrals are then put into a drawing and your student has a chance to win a prize. Each Friday the referrals are printed along with a certificate and given to the student's basecamp teacher, so they can be sent home with the student and shared with you all. We would love your collaboration on reviewing the behavior focus of the week with your student/s, so they can continue to grow and display positive behaviors at Summit!

Thank you all for your support as we continue to celebrate your students.

SUMMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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