



## September Newsletter

# Message from the Principal

Summit Families,

We have completed our first full week of school, and we cannot be more proud of both our students and staff! Students were taught and reviewed classroom and building-wide expectations while engaging in relationship building activities! Teachers are facilitating high quality instruction to students! The admin team has increased visibility throughout the building and has spent a significant amount of time in classrooms and PLCs throughout the week! We have truly had an amazing start to the school year!

Next week, members of our instructional leadership team will speak at the board meeting to share Summit's plan for continuous improvement! Members of the board and district office staff will then visit Summit the following Monday to walk classrooms with our instructional leadership team! We are looking forward to welcoming everyone into our building, so they are able to witness the amazing things that continue to happen at Summit!

Kaniesha Pettaway, Principal

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## Reminders & Updates

### Emergency Drills

Students and staff will participate in emergency drills this month, including bus evacuation, lock down, evacuation and shelter in place. In an emergency situation, we know preparation is important! Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

### 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.





### **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)

### **Important Information from the Nutrition Department**

Families will be required to pay \$2.00 for secondary student breakfast, \$3.00 for secondary student lunch and \$.50 for extra milk with cold lunch. This means families need to carry a positive balance in their children's school meal accounts or qualify for free or reduced priced meals when school begins this fall.

**If you think you may qualify for Free or Reduced priced meals, you may complete an application.** The 2024-2025 online application is available on the District's website. Even if you completed an application for 2023-2024, you will still need to complete one for 2024-2025. For questions or assistance completing the application, contact the Nutrition Department at 515-278-0728.

### **Free and Reduced Meal Program**

### **Pick-Up & Drop-Off Guidelines**

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

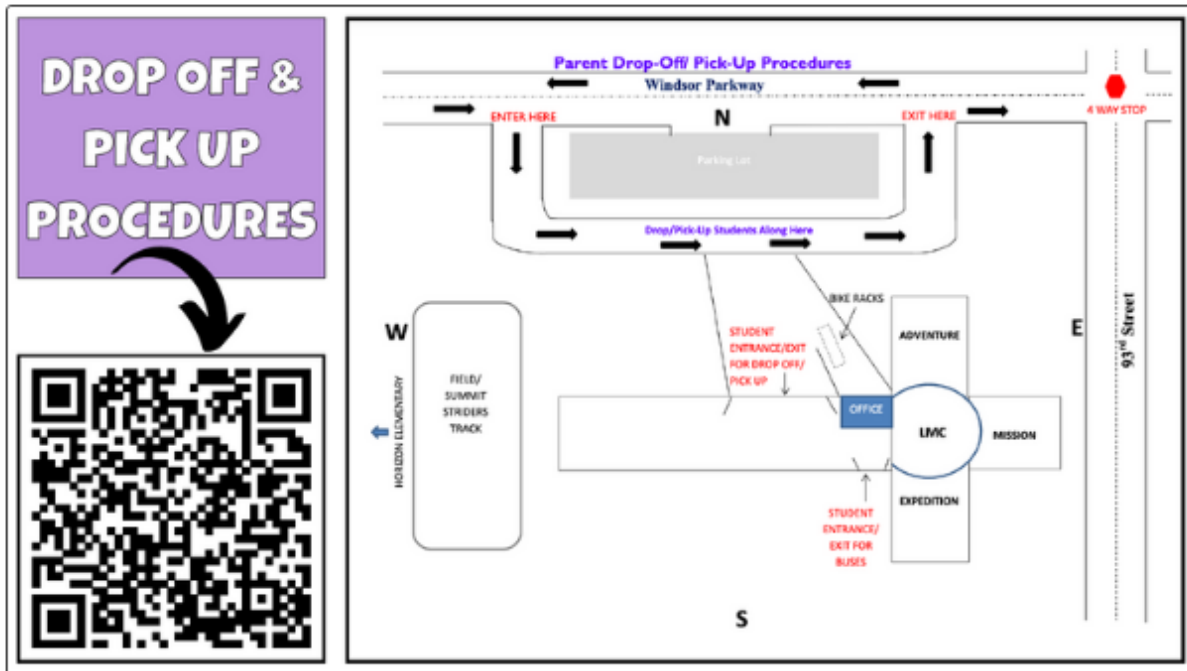
1. Staff will be on duty at the front of the building from 7:25 - 7:40 AM for arrivals.
2. Staff will be on duty from 2:50 - 3:00 PM for dismissal.
3. Pull your vehicle all the way up behind the car in front of you when in the carpool lane for pick-up & drop-off. If you are first in line, drive past the entrance and stop at the second light pole.
4. Parking lot drop-offs are not permitted for safety reasons.

### **Important Reminders:**

100th Street from White Oak Lane to Windsor will be closed for approximately 6 weeks at the start of the year. The intersection of 100th and Windsor is open.

An ordinance with the city of Johnston states that drivers are not allowed to block a crosswalk under any circumstance. 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!



## Counselor's Corner

**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



## Say hello to Xello!

Summit Middle School is excited to roll out Xello this year for our students and families! Xello is an engaging online program that helps students build the skills, knowledge and plans to be future ready. The program uses an investigative, discovery-based learning process. Students better understand themselves, their future career options, and the 21st century skills they'll need to succeed. This program will run through our talented counseling teams, who help students navigate future career choices and exploration.

**\*\*Be looking for more information coming out in the near future to you and your student!!\*\*** We wanted to take this opportunity to give you a sneak peek into this program.

### Here's how it works...

With Xello, your child will:

1. **Build Self-knowledge** Define their interests, skills, preferences, and aspirations so they can explore the opportunities right for them.
2. **Explore Options** Learn about career possibilities and educational pathways by exploring rich, engaging content and lessons.
3. **Create a Plan** Your child can create dynamic actionable plans that outline the steps needed to achieve school, career, and life goals.
4. **Learn & Reassess** Interactive lessons help your child develop age appropriate skills and knowledge for success in school and beyond.

## Xello Family

Xello Family lets you explore and discover your child's future goals and plans so you can better support their learning and development. [Watch an introductory video here!](#)

1. **Access Your Account** In the future, you will receive a Welcome to Xello! activation email to the address we have on file. Once you click Activate Account through the email, you will be redirected to Xello and asked to create a password.
2. **Explore Xello Family** On the welcome screen, you will see all children linked to your account. Clicking a child's name will bring you to their profile.
3. **Discover Your Child's Interests and Goals** In your child's profile, you will be able to see all the work they've done in Xello. If there's no information in a certain section, your child has not yet started or completed the activity. You can explore each section to learn new information about your child.
4. **Access Your Student Demo Account** Try Xello for yourself to get a better understanding of the platform to support your child. On the welcome screen, select your child's grade/school under Your Demo Account. Lessons and assignments are catered by grade and school so if you have multiple children, each demo account might look a little different. Once you're in the demo account, you will be able to take assessments, try a lesson, explore careers, and much more.
5. **Discuss Your Child's Future Goals and Plan** Xello is a great tool to use to start future planning conversations with your child. Try asking them why they liked a certain career. Were they surprised about their top career suggestions? What different pathways can they take to achieve their goals?

## Safe and Secure Environment

We take data protection and privacy very seriously. So does Xello. The program complies with legal requirements for safety and security outlined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). That means advertising is not displayed within Xello, nor is data used for commercial purposes. Xello is also a signatory of the Student Privacy Pledge, requiring them to uphold strict standards for safeguarding student privacy regarding the collection, maintenance, and use of student personal information. You can learn more about Xello and the student experience by visiting [www.xello.world](http://www.xello.world)

## News from the PTO

**Please join us tonight for our first PTO meeting of the school year!** We will meet in the Summit LMC at 7pm. All are welcome!!

Please join us on **September 12th for Dine to Donate and support the Summit Middle School PTO!** Show the flyer below for 10% to be donated back to us! We appreciate all your support!

The flyer features a dark blue denim background. At the top left is the Texas Roadhouse logo. To its right is the phone number (515) 251-4597 and the address 8744 Northpark Dr., Johnston, IA. A green banner across the middle contains the word 'FUNDRAISING' in large white letters, with 'DINE-IN OR TO-GO' in smaller white letters below it. Below the banner, the word 'Support' is written in a cursive font, flanked by double arrows. Underneath, 'SUMMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO' is written in bold black letters, followed by the date 'Thursday, September 12th' and the time '4:00pm - 10:00pm'. On the left side, there is a photograph of a paper bag filled with golden-brown bread rolls and a small bowl of dipping sauce. To the right of the photo, '10%' is written in large green numbers, with 'DONATION NIGHT' in green below it. At the bottom right, a small block of text explains that the location and Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of total food purchases to the Summit Middle School PTO.

**TEXAS ROADHOUSE**

(515) 251-4597  
8744 Northpark Dr.  
Johnston, IA

**FUNDRAISING**  
DINE-IN OR TO-GO

⇒ *Support* ⇐

**SUMMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO**  
Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>  
4:00pm - 10:00pm

**10%**  
**DONATION NIGHT**

Support Summit Middle School PTO by presenting this flyer to the Johnston, IA Location and Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of your total food purchases to Summit Middle School PTO!



## Homecoming Shirts

Support the Johnston Varsity Dance Team and your Johnston Dragons by ordering your homecoming shirts and car decals today! All shirts are available in youth and adult sizes. All proceeds benefit the Johnston Varsity Dance Team and their road to Nationals next March! Online orders are due Saturday, September 7th.

<https://johnston-dance-team.square.site/>

Homecoming shirts will also be available for purchase on Sunday, September 8th from 5-7pm at the Johnston Booster Bash at JHS Stadium.

**Pick-up/Delivery information** – all orders will be available for pickup on Sunday, September 15th during Rock Around the Clock at JHS Football Stadium. Any orders that are not picked up on Sunday will be delivered to your respective school and sent home with your student that week. Orders for JHS and JMS will also be available for pickup during all lunch periods 9/16-9/20.

Questions? Reach out to Coach Paige - [Paige.meredith@johnston.k12.ia.us](mailto:Paige.meredith@johnston.k12.ia.us)

## Upcoming Dates

### Tuesday, September 3

PTO Meeting, 7 PM  
Summit LMC

### Wednesday, September 4

Picture Day

### Sunday, September 8

Johnston Booster Bash, 5 - 7 PM  
JHS Stadium

### Thursday, September 12

PTO Dine to Donate Event, 4 - 10 PM  
Texas Roadhouse

### Monday, September 16

School Board & District Staff Visit at Summit

### Monday, September 30

No School, Staff Professional Development

Month	Day	Event / Holiday
August	1	Summer Break
August	14	Summer Break
August	28	Summer Break
September	3	PTO Meeting
September	4	Picture Day
September	8	Johnston Booster Bash
September	12	PTO Dine to Donate Event
September	16	School Board & District Staff Visit
September	30	No School, Staff Professional Development
October	1	Start of School
October	10	Halloween
October	15	Rock Around the Clock
November	11	Thanksgiving
November	12	Thanksgiving
November	13	Thanksgiving
December	17	Winter Break
December	18	Winter Break
December	19	Winter Break
December	20	Winter Break
December	21	Winter Break
December	22	Winter Break
December	23	Winter Break
December	24	Winter Break
December	25	Winter Break
December	26	Winter Break
December	27	Winter Break
December	28	Winter Break
December	29	Winter Break
December	30	Winter Break
January	1	Start of School
January	15	Winter Break
January	16	Winter Break
January	17	Winter Break
January	18	Winter Break
January	19	Winter Break
January	20	Winter Break
January	21	Winter Break
January	22	Winter Break
January	23	Winter Break
January	24	Winter Break
January	25	Winter Break
January	26	Winter Break
January	27	Winter Break
January	28	Winter Break
January	29	Winter Break
January	30	Winter Break
February	1	Start of School
February	14	Valentine's Day
February	15	Valentine's Day
February	16	Valentine's Day
February	17	Valentine's Day
February	18	Valentine's Day
February	19	Valentine's Day
February	20	Valentine's Day
February	21	Valentine's Day
February	22	Valentine's Day
February	23	Valentine's Day
February	24	Valentine's Day
February	25	Valentine's Day
February	26	Valentine's Day
February	27	Valentine's Day
February	28	Valentine's Day
February	29	Valentine's Day
March	1	Start of School
March	15	Spring Break
March	16	Spring Break
March	17	Spring Break
March	18	Spring Break
March	19	Spring Break
March	20	Spring Break
March	21	Spring Break
March	22	Spring Break
March	23	Spring Break
March	24	Spring Break
March	25	Spring Break
March	26	Spring Break
March	27	Spring Break
March	28	Spring Break
March	29	Spring Break
March	30	Spring Break
April	1	Start of School
April	15	Spring Break
April	16	Spring Break
April	17	Spring Break
April	18	Spring Break
April	19	Spring Break
April	20	Spring Break
April	21	Spring Break
April	22	Spring Break
April	23	Spring Break
April	24	Spring Break
April	25	Spring Break
April	26	Spring Break
April	27	Spring Break
April	28	Spring Break
April	29	Spring Break
April	30	Spring Break
May	1	Start of School
May	15	Spring Break
May	16	Spring Break
May	17	Spring Break
May	18	Spring Break
May	19	Spring Break
May	20	Spring Break
May	21	Spring Break
May	22	Spring Break
May	23	Spring Break
May	24	Spring Break
May	25	Spring Break
May	26	Spring Break
May	27	Spring Break
May	28	Spring Break
May	29	Spring Break
May	30	Spring Break
June	1	Start of School
June	15	Summer Break
June	16	Summer Break
June	17	Summer Break
June	18	Summer Break
June	19	Summer Break
June	20	Summer Break
June	21	Summer Break
June	22	Summer Break
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June	29	Summer Break
June	30	Summer Break