

The Patriot Promoter

Distributed by the Win-E-Mac School District

www.wemschools.org

August 2024



2024-2025 School Year Information

Open House

Open house will take place on Wednesday, August 28, from 5-7 pm. We are excited to welcome students back into the building to meet their new teachers, to visit their new classrooms, to drop supplies off in their desks and lockers and to see friends they haven't seen in a while! A meal will be provided on the west side of the school during this time as well.

All forms will be online this year through ParentVue. Please make sure that you have access to ParentVue; if you need access, please contact Erin Lisburg in the office or email her at elisburg@wemschools.org.

7th Grade Orientation at 4 pm

* Class schedule information (Band Room)

Contact Mr. Reiersen for schedule changes.

Please Note Changes in Grade 6-12 Device Pickup

- * Students will pick up devices on first day of school
- * Feel free to pay the \$30 tech fee in advance either in the office, online via LINQ (linqconnect.com/5RJYZA), or by mailing a check (23130 345th St SE, Erskine)
- * See wemschools.org/tech for more information



Click here for the full school Calendar -

[2024-2025 School Calendar](#)

August

20th, 27th, 28th, 29th – Staff Workdays
28th – Open House 5:00-7:00 pm

September

3rd – First Day of School
10th – Early out at 1:20 pm
17th – Board Meeting 5:30 pm
24th – Early out at 1:20 pm

October

8th – Early out at 1:20 pm
10th – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Dismissal 12:30
15th – Board Meeting 5:30 pm
17th – No School – MEA/NEA
18th – No School – MEA/NEA
22nd – Early out at 1:20 pm

November

1st – End of 1st Quarter
5th – Election Day
12th – Early out at 1:20 pm
19th – Board Meeting 5:30 pm
26th – Early out at 1:20 pm
28th – No School: Thanksgiving
29th – No School

December

10th – Early out at 1:20 pm
17th – Board Meeting 5:30 pm
23rd-31st – No School: Winter Break

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTES

Aaron Cook, Superintendent



Introduction

I am thrilled to return to Win-E-Mac as your new Superintendent, a role that is especially meaningful to me given my roots within our communities. Having previously served in the district with different roles, I am excited to be able to re engage with the school environment in this new role!

My wife Nicole and I are both Win-E-Mac graduates and we have five children, 3 currently at Win-E-Mac: Brody (11), Kolby (9), Sawyer (7), Gemma (3) and Ivy (2). We also own The Clubhouse Childcare Center located in McIntosh.

I look forward to collaborating with all of you and contributing to build on our school excellence.



READ Act

Minnesota Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act, known as the READ Act, was passed and signed into law by Governor Tim Walz on May 24, 2023. The goal of this legislation is to have every Minnesota child reading at or above grade level every year, beginning in kindergarten, and to support multilingual learners and students receiving special education services in achieving their individualized reading goals in order to meet grade level proficiency. The READ Act replaced Read Well by Third Grade (RWB TG) and went into effect as of July 1, 2023.

Beginning July 1, 2024, each district and charter school must provide teachers and instructional support staff with responsibility for teaching reading with training on evidence-based reading instruction that is approved by the Department of Education. Win-E-Mac staff will be fulfilling this requirement by having our staff participate in **CAREIALL**: Advancing Language and Literacy – Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI University of Minnesota)

This is the reason behind the additional early out days this school year.

Administrative Updates

The 2024-25 school year brings some additional administrative changes to our school district. My role as Superintendent is a shared Superintendent position with another school district. This model provides significant cost savings to the school districts and allows for greater sharing of knowledge.

We are also welcoming a new Principal and we are thrilled to have Mr. Casey Reierson in our school district. You can find out more about Mr. Reierson in the new staff section below.

Another significant addition to our administrative team is the new Dean of Students Position. Mr. Brady Langemo will be transitioning from the classroom into the new Dean of Students role, while also keeping his Activities Director duties. The Dean of Students role is designed to support the social, emotional and academic growth of students as well as handle student discipline matters. Mr. Langemo will work closely with staff, students and families to foster a positive school environment, address students' needs promptly, and implement programs that promote student well-being and success.

Employment Opportunities

We are currently hiring for paraprofessionals. Our paraprofessionals are a valuable part of our school system providing students with additional support to set them up for success.

If anyone is interested in obtaining their bus license, we will work with you to get the license. Currently we have substitute routes and extracurricular driving available. We will also have full time driving routes available in the future. Please reach out to the district office for more information.

Fitness Room Renewal

Membership to the School Fitness Center must be renewed prior to **August 31, 2024**. You will need to renew the **\$75** membership fee by that date, or your card will be deactivated until a payment is made. If you did not purchase a membership last year and would like one this year, please come to the District Office to fill out a membership application and pay the fee. Each adult member of a family must have their own individual membership card. Parents can use their card to supervise school aged children, but will not have access to any other areas of the school. Please call 218-563-2900 for any questions.

Important: Immunizations

Before a student can attend a school in Minnesota, a child must have their immunizations up to date. Immunizations are typically required for students entering kindergarten, 7th, and 12th grade. If you have a question, please call the school for information.

After School Programming

We will continue to offer after school programming options. We are in the process of looking for no cost options to families, but in the meantime will continue to offer our current program and associated fee.

After School Supervision

As the school year and sports seasons begin, we want to remind parents about our expectations. Unless your child is involved in a school approved after school program, they are to go home on the bus. Then return for evening activities with adult supervision.

If your child has an after school activity, and has a gap between the end of school and the start of the activity, please visit with your child about your expectations of them. Many times students will leave school grounds during this time, if you do not want them to do so please make that clear with them.

Activities

We are very proud of all the activities we offer at Win-E-Mac! Whether you are into sports, music, theater, or robotics we have something for you! A full activities calendar can be found here -

[Activities Calendar](#)

Fall Activities -

Football, Volleyball, Junior High Play, Cheerleading

Winter Activities -

Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Wrestling, Robotics, Knowledge Bowl, One Act Play, Robotics, Visual Arts, E-Sports, Cheerleading

Spring Activities -

All School Play, Baseball, Softball, Track and Field, Golf

WIN-E-MAC SCHOOL WEBSITE

There are many tools' parents/guardians have access to via our website: www.wemschools.org

You have the ability to check food service account balances, look at menus for the month, use TITAN/LINQ to pay on your child/children's account, view the school and activities calendars, access teacher daily lesson plans, monitor your child's progress & grade reports, read the daily bulletin, contact teachers and staff via email, find any jobs postings at the school, view information and photos about happenings at the school as well as other website features. If you have any questions or problems concerning the website, please call the school.

Office Hours & Contact Information

The Win-E-Mac School District Office will be open from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM Mon-Fri during regular school days. To reach the school, you can use the following numbers:

Erskine: 218-687-2236

McIntosh: 218-563-2900

Fax Line: 218-563-2902

New Staff Introductions

Casey Reierson, Principal

My name is Casey Reierson, your new principal. I have been working in education for 11 years. It is essential to me that education is an enjoyable experience with high expectations for all of the students I serve. When students enjoy school they can truly learn.

My wife Hailey and I have been married for 11 years and we have three children. Two boys (9 and 7 years old) and a daughter (3 years old). My family and I enjoy too many things to mention. In the fall you can catch us hunting, in the winter we enjoy anything hockey related, in the spring we tap maple trees, and in the summer we fish and spend time on the lake.

I have been very impressed with the commitment levels at WEM. I am excited to begin our journey together as a team. I can tell that the culture in our school is strong and I will lead to strengthen our bond together. Go Patriots!



Brady Langemo, Dean of Students (New Role)

I was born and raised north of McIntosh and am a graduate of Win-E-Mac High School. I have taught for 20 years between 4th and 5th grade in Montross, VA (4 years), Austin, MN (7 years), Mahnomen, MN (2 years), and Win-E-Mac (7 years). I am lucky enough to have my wife and kids with me at work each day, Frannie (1st grade teacher), Ella (9th), Grafton (6th), and Magnolia (1st). This will be a year full of changes and new experiences that I am excited for in my new role as the dean of students. I am most looking forward to getting to work with many more students and building a relationship with them to help make Win-E-Mac the best place to come and learn.



Shelby Engstrom, 3rd Grade Teacher

Hello, I'm Shelby Engstrom! My husband, Jared and I live outside of Mentor with our son, Walker (2) and daughter, Lyla (14 months). I spent the last 6 years teaching 4th grade, four years in Pembina, ND and the last two years in Red Lake Falls. I am so excited to be back at Win-E-Mac!



Abby Steffan, School Social Worker

My name is Abby Steffan and I am a Licensed Social Worker. I graduated in May from UND with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work. I have experience working with children in public school systems as well as experience working with all ages in the family-based social service setting. I am from Bismarck, North Dakota and now live with my boyfriend, Adam, in Thief River Falls. I am excited to join the Win-E-Mac school district team and to get to know everyone. I look forward to a wonderful school year working with the families at Win-E-Mac.



Brad Hubred, Science

I am excited to join the team at Win-E-Mac Schools! I am entering my 22nd year as a teacher. I bring a passion for education and the mental health of my students to Win-E-Mac and I'm excited for the start of the school year. Fun fact about me, I was a finalist for Minnesota Teacher of the Year in 2022, which was one of the highlights of my career so far!



Brittany Ryba, Art

I recently moved to Crookston, MN where I live with my boyfriend and our two dogs. Coming from Fargo, ND where I taught 9-12 grade Art for 6 years. I am excited to have the opportunity to teach art to kids of all ages! In my free time I enjoy reading, being outdoors, and honing my art skills. I look forward to meeting new people and becoming a part of the Win-E-Mac district!



Becky Hanson, School Counselor

My name is Mrs. Becky Hanson, and I am super excited to be your school counselor here at Win-E-Mac in the mornings! Let me share a little about myself. I graduated from North Dakota State University (NDSU) with a Master's in Education (M.Ed) in Counseling.

In my work with students, I use two main counseling approaches:

- **Solution-Focused Brief Counseling:** This approach helps students realize that problems don't last forever. We focus on finding solutions instead of getting stuck on the problems.
- **Person-Centered Counseling:** This method is all about providing students with kindness, understanding, and support. It's like having a safe space where you can be yourself and feel valued.

Besides counseling, I'll also be teaching Senior Seminar. I can't wait to work with you all and make our time together fun and engaging!





SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Win-E-Mac School provides delicious, healthy meals for breakfast and lunch. All students will continue to receive a free breakfast and free lunch at the school. This is state law that was initially introduced for the 2023-24 school year. If students wish to take ala carte options, a second meal, or a non-reimbursable lunch/breakfast those will be charged to their accounts.

Even though all student meals are free it is vitally important for families to still fill out the free and reduced lunch forms. The state has funding mechanisms that are directly tied to a school's free and reduced lunch percentage. There are also federal advantages to having a higher free and reduced lunch percentage that can include better chances at grant opportunities and additional title funds being allocated to the school.

Form can be filled out by accessing the school website wemschools.org or by clicking here -

[Free and Reduced Lunch Application](#)

To view the monthly breakfast and lunch menus please click here -

[Breakfast and Lunch Menus](#)

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: THE WIN-E-MAC SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS A NO-CHARGING POLICY. This means there must be sufficient funds in your child/children's lunch accounts for each time they purchase items. If your account happens to have a negative balance, you will get an email, text or phone call once a week.



WIN-E-MAC SCHOOL CONTINUES BACKPACK PROGRAM FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Amy Bartz, Alluma clinical therapist co-located at Win-E-Mac School, states the Backpack Program provides additional food for children who attended school at Win-E-Mac. The food is delivered from North County Food Bank and is solely funded by donations. The Backpack Program provides food to children who don't have access to food on the weekends when school is not in session. The children are both elementary and high school age, and often look forward to the boost of food for the weekend or holiday. The food is child-friendly and is easy for the students to prepare themselves without adult support. The number of children participating can fluctuate during the school year depending on the movement of families in and out of the district or the needs of families changing throughout the year. The school staff is really good at referring and expressing any concerns they have about children who show warning signs of not having an adequate amount of food.

If you are interested in learning more about the Backpack Program for yourself or others, or if you wish to donate money to assist in underwriting the Program for the Win-E-Mac School, you can contact Amy Bartz or Abby Steffan (WEM social worker). Please call Win-E-Mac School at 218-687-2236 or Grace Lutheran Church, 218-687-4035. Checks can be written to the Grace Backpack Program and mailed to Grace Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 124, Erskine, MN 56535.



SCHOOL MESSENGER

In our effort to improve communication between parents and school, Win-E-Mac has a telephone broadcast system that will enable school personnel to notify all households and parents by phone within minutes of an emergency or unplanned event that causes early dismissal, school cancellation or late start. The service may also be used from time-to-time to communicate general announcements or reminders. This service is provided by **School Messenger**, a company specializing in school-to-parent communications. Win-E-Mac will continue to report school closings due to snow or weather on area radio and TV stations and will use this system as an overlay to the public announcements.

When used, the service will call all phone numbers in our selected parent contact lists and will deliver a recorded message from a school employee. The service will deliver the message to both live answer and answering machines. A call that goes unanswered will be automatically retried twice in fifteen-minute intervals after the initial call. **Please make sure that your phone number(s) are up-to-date.**

CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES

If the phone goes off in school or a student is viewed to be texting or sending/receiving calls, the phone will be taken away and placed in the office until a parent can come to the school to pick it up. Repeat offenses will be dealt with by the principal.

SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS

The lists of supplies needed for each grade can be found on the website www.wemschools.org and the school office.



BOX TOPS/LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Families: Are you looking for a quick and easy way to support our school? HERE'S HOW: Buy participating products and use the Box Tops app to scan your store receipt. The app identifies eligible products and earnings are credited to your designated school online. Even if you are shopping online or doing grocery pickup, you can still submit your digital or email receipt with the Box Tops app and earn. Twice a year, our school gets a check! Thank you for supporting our students!



ATTENDANCE

It is our belief that there is a clear and positive correlation between student learning and consistent and prompt attendance in class. Much of what is presented in classes is sequential; therefore, learning requires a continuity of attendance and effort. Regular attendance, an essential cornerstone of learning, is based upon a partnership between home and school in promoting responsible attendance habits. The students, the parents/guardians, and the school share responsibility for student attendance. Students are expected to attend classes regularly and to be on time. We believe that in order to earn credit in a course, a student should not have more than 10 absences during a semester. To adequately communicate this policy with parents, we will mail notices when your child has missed 5, 7 and 10 days respectively from any class period. Reaching the 10-day maximum could result in no credit for that class for the entire semester. We also want to reward good attendance for those students who make every effort to come to school and do their very best. Years ago, we instituted an exemption policy by which students could be exempt from semester tests based upon their attendance and academic progress. To review either of these policies, please request a handbook from the office or log on to our website at www.wemschools.org to review them in their entirety.

WIN-E-MAC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

The first day of school is just around the corner and the transportation department is busy preparing bus routes. Transportation postcards will be sent out to each family in the district the last week in August. The postcards will contain information including the name of the bus driver, the bus number your child/children will be riding on and the A.M. pick-up time. All town stops will remain the same unless indicated otherwise on the postcard.

FYI - we have contracted out one bus route for this year with Steins Bus Service. The route that they will be doing will be Pat/Doug's old route. If you had bus #1 last year, your bus will now be bus #2 - Steins Bus Service, Rhoda Berg will be your driver. The postcards will also have this information on them, with the time of pickup. If you have any questions, please contact Kristi Plante.

If you have moved since the end of the school year, **please call the school immediately** and let them know your new address and phone number. If you are new to the district, it is also very important to register your children. It is extremely difficult to develop accurate bus routes until we know exactly where each student is residing.

If your child/children will not be riding the school bus, please contact the school with that information as well.

We would also like to remind you to fill out a child care form for pickups and drop-offs that are different from your home. These are very important so that our staff can pick up and deliver your children to the correct address. The teachers and office staff need to have notes if a child needs to be dropped off somewhere else or be picked up by someone other than the parent or guardian.

Minnesota Law governs Transportation by the school district as a privilege and not a right for an eligible student. A student's eligibility to ride a school bus may be revoked for a violation of school bus safety or conduct policies, or violation of any other law governing student conduct on a school bus pursuant to the school district's discipline policy. Revocation of a student's bus riding privilege is not an exclusion, expulsion, or suspension under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act.

Bus Rule Consequences

- First Offense: Warning
- Second Offense: 5-day suspension from riding the bus
- Third Offense: 10-day suspension from riding the bus
- Fourth Offense: 20-day suspension from riding the bus
- Fifth Offense: Suspended from riding the bus for the remainder of the year
- NOTES: Based on the severity of the student's conduct, more serious consequences may be imposed at any time.

If you have any questions or concerns about transportation at Win-E-Mac, please contact Kristi Plante at 218-563-2900 or 218-687-2236.



**Home of the Patriots
Welcome Back to School
September 3, 2024**

POSTAL PATRON

**Non-Profit Organization
ECRWSS
U.S. Postage Paid
McIntosh MN 56556
Permit #18**

**Win-E-Mac ISD#2609
23130 345th St SE
Erskine MN 56535**