

WILDCAT PRIDE

Nov/December NEWSLETTER



Dear Families,

Winter break is upon us, and I can't believe it. This is my sixth year here and for me it has no doubt seemed like the fastest first semester ever. I attribute this to how well our school is functioning and how well our staff and students are performing every day. Having great students, parents and staff makes my job easier and I appreciate all the work everyone puts in to make our days at school the best they can be. I hope you also feel the first semester has gone smoothly and that we have a great second half of the year!

I've had some people asking questions about the construction that got underway this fall to the west of the elementary. Mr. Ptomey puts out weekly newsletters and updates on a variety of topics and he has explained a lot of details in his newsletters on this topic. If you've missed those, or didn't know he did this, they can be found every Friday on our FB page and on the home page of our website. To summarize what is going on if you don't know, the new structure will be a new kitchen and cafeteria, and auxiliary gym.

We currently do not have the cafeteria capacity to hold more than four grade levels at a time and our 4-5th graders are eating lunch daily in their classrooms. Beyond capacity issues, our current lunch service line location and the rate we can get kids through the lunch line no longer adequately supports our student population PK-12. Our lunchroom is also in the center of the K-12 building and is a connection between the vocational shop area and the rest of the building. The K-12 schedule has passing periods during the elementary and high school lunch. Having a couple hundred kids using the area as hallway while trying to serve lunch is not a functional situation. In addition to all that, we start our lunches at 10:40 and don't end until 1:05. With that amount of time being taken to serve lunch, our current class schedules are limited, especially for high school class offerings and creates several other schedule conflicts in our day. All the above, along with a few other issues can be resolved with the new kitchen and cafeteria.

Another benefit with the facility is that it can also double as additional gym space. The floor space will be enough to accommodate a competition basketball game and along with the auditorium, this will give us three practice spaces for all our youth, middle school and high school activities. It is estimated to be done before the start of school next fall, but with the way construction projects go, that may not be a reality and we may deal with some transitional struggles come fall. If you have missed the other communications about this project, hopefully this can help clarify and answer some of your questions.

One School One Book

Starting at the end of January, our school will be taking part in the One School One Book reading program. The PTO and Cedar Bluffs Education Foundation are paying for the cost of the program. One School One Book is a national reading program where a book is selected, and each student receives a copy to read at home as a family. At school, students celebrate the novel with their classmates and have classroom discussions. The concept is to get kids and families engaged and more interested in reading, which helps reinforce reading instruction at school, increases parental involvement, connects the home to the school and builds a community of readers. Please look for more information to come towards the end of January. <https://readtothem.org/one-school-one-book/>

Bus Cameras

It's time to celebrate! We now have cameras on *most* of our busses. Not all our busses are equipped with camera capabilities, but the ones that are now have video cameras along with audio. We can now be supported with video

recordings when there are bus issues. Mr. Brinkman went to all classrooms last week to show all the kids what we can all see and hear and reviewed our handbook transportation policies and referral system with them. We hope this added support helps minimize undesired behaviors, increases safety for the students and our drivers and can help us to identify problem students and clarify details of reported bus incidents.

Important Information

- *Wednesday, December 21 is our Last Day for the semester. **It is a 1:30 out.**
- *Tuesday, January 10 is our First Day of the second semester.
- *Report Cards and Special Education Progress Reports will be sent home on Tuesday, January 10.
- *Starting in January, we welcome Morgan Moratz to PK to replace Mrs. Kolar. Mrs. Kolar's husband was relocated for work, and we thank her for her years of service to our PK.
- *Student Illness- We attempt to keep kids at school as much as possible. A student is required to go home with a temp. of 100 or higher. They must be removed from school for at least 24 hours and should be fever free for 24 hours before being allowed to return. We now have a Telehealth nurse and kids can be evaluated by her. Nurse Katie will now often be the one to be calling home for all student health situations.

Other Information

- *Download our School App found in your app store. Just type in Cedar Bluffs Public Schools
- *There are number of field trips this year. Please be on the lookout for permission slips.
- *Kids First After School Program and Youth Sports Director is **Jeff Beckman**. Contact him at school with anything regarding those two programs or email him at jeff.beckman@cbwildcats.org
- *Transportation director is **Tom Brinkman**. Contact him at school for all transportation related issues or email him at thomas.brinkman@cbwildcats.org
- *I am always willing to try and assist in after school program or bus matters, but please know Mr. Beckman and Mr. Brinkman are the individuals in charge and responsible for those two areas. Any problems or concerns should first go to them for ASP and Bussing.
- *3-5th Grade Detentions have been taking place since Sept. 8. We have had 6 students receive a detention. Remember, if your child gets one, they are served from 3:25-4:00 after school on Thursday's. You will be notified ahead of time for transportation arrangements to be made. If in detention, students are not permitted to ride the bus, attend the After School Program, or participate in any practices that night and your child will need to be picked up by an adult at 4:00 from the elementary front door. If you've missed the outlined and detailed information sent home, and would like more information, please contact me in the elementary office.
- ****LASTLY**, if you have not joined your classroom teacher on the REMIND app, please do. Ask them for help if you still need to do it and need help. This is how most teachers send out mass communications to classroom parents.

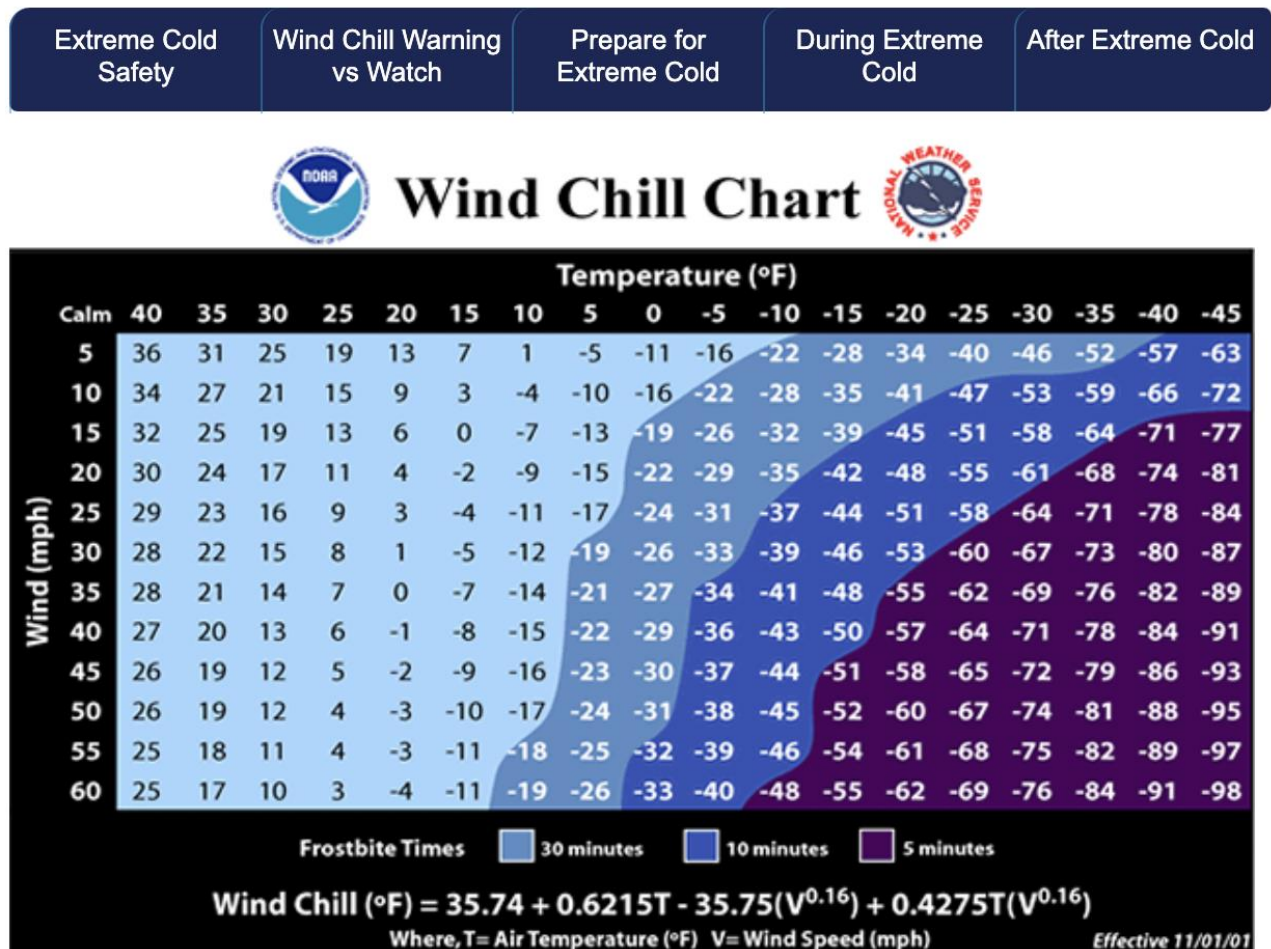


Below is our handbook rule for recess and a windchill factor chart from the national weather service. Air temperature to stay inside is 15 degrees or below. The windchill is left up to a little more judgment. With our longest noon recesses being at 25 minutes the combined windchill and temp would need to be in or near the -20's for frostbite in that amount of time. A sunny 10 degree day with no wind may even be nice enough to get outside for the length of our recesses. We typically follow the handbook and chart along with our best judgement on whether to hold outdoor recesses.

If a kid does not have warm enough clothes and we don't have any for them to borrow at 15 or lower, they will be kept inside. PLEASE BE SURE TO ALWAYS SEND YOUR KID WITH WARM CLOTHES.

Recess Weather and Temperature

Recess will generally take place outside. Rain and snow will not necessarily mean students will stay indoors. Please dress your student appropriately for the days weather. Students will be kept indoors during moderate to heavy rains, and when the temperature is 15 degrees or colder. This is air temperature and does not include the wind-chill factor. When there are significant wind chill factors of below zero students will be kept inside. We will generally go outside for recesses, so please send your child with appropriate cold weather attire.



GO WILDCATS!