

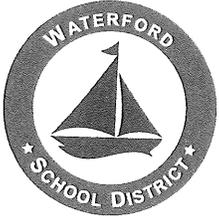
**KURZMAN ADMINISTRATION SERVICES**

**CRARY CAMPUS**

501 N. Cass Lake Road  
Waterford, Michigan 48328  
www.waterford.k12.mi.us

**KEITH D. WUNDERLICH, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**PHONE:** (248) 706-4860  
**Fax:** (248) 706-4888  
**E-Mail:** wundeko1@wsdmi.org



September 1, 2015

Welcome back to the 2015-2016 school year! It all begins on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. (See the start times below for various schools and levels.) All the elementary schools will have a Meet & Greet tomorrow, September 2, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Today, during Opening Day presentations, we launched “Waterford READS”. What is it? It’s a *guarantee* that all Waterford students will read at grade level by the end of third grade. Did I say guarantee? Yes, I did. So, you’re probably wondering what that guarantee means and what’s the fine print.

The guarantee means we will focus our resources on grade level reading in grades preK-3. It’s one thing to say we have a goal. You really get everyone’s attention when you say we have a guarantee. The guarantee means various research-based interventions will be used when students aren’t reading at grade level. Our content specialists, interventionists and teachers will analyze data on specific students to determine why they aren’t reading at grade level and prescribe the best intervention. If more time is necessary, we’ll provide more time. If a new intervention is necessary, we’ll provide the intervention. We will do whatever is necessary. We won’t stop until students are reading at grade level.

So, what’s the fine print? Will *everyone* read at grade level by the end of third grade? I started my career as a special education teacher. The students I taught would not have qualified for my program if they were reading at grade level. So, yes, there are some students that will not read at grade level. However, they can still read at a higher level than they do now. Students who arrive in Waterford in second grade not speaking English may experience some delays. But, we are raising the bar for ALL students. The vast majority of students – I’m looking for 95% - will be reading at grade level by the end of third grade.

You may wonder what’s going to be different this year than it was last year? The answer is a single word: focus. For staff working in grades preK-3, this is our single most important objective. All training, all discussions and all staff will be working toward this single objective. That’s powerful!

You may not have a son or daughter in preK-3. Are we ignoring grades 4-12? What about advanced students? What are we going to do for them? Hold on to that thought. We have goals there, too. We’re not quite as ready to roll those out just yet.

We’re raising the academic bar in Waterford. You’re going to notice, and love, the difference.

Sincerely,

Keith D. Wunderlich, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

High School	7:20 a.m.
Durant	7:25 a.m.
Middle School	8:05 a.m.
Children’s Village	8:05 a.m.
Kingsley Montgomery	8:12 a.m.
Elementary	8:45 a.m.