



NEWSLETTER

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5145 Hatchery Road, Waterford, MI 48329

September 2018

EVERY DAY

COUNTS!

DON'T LET ABSENCES ADD UP

Are you confused on the difference between an unexcused, excused, and exempt absence? Read the definitions below to learn more.

Unexcused Absence: An absence when the parent/guardian does not call to excuse the absence and, as a result, receives an automated Blackboard Connect alert.

Excused Absence: An absence when the parent/guardian calls the school within 48 hours of the absence to inform the school that the student will not be in attendance. Vacations are an example of an excused absence. Please note that these absences still count towards the student's total number of absences.

Exempt Absences: An absence that is reported but does not count toward the attendance cap. To obtain an exemption the student/parent must provide one of the following to the school office: documentation from a physician, dentist, orthodontist, or therapist stating the student had an appointment that required being absent for a portion of the school day.

- Documentation from a physician stating the student was ill and needed to be absent from school for a specified period of time.
- Documentation of a religious holiday, funeral of a close family member, legal requirements, or out of school suspensions.

Students should miss no more than 10 excused or unexcused days per year. Missing more than this can begin to affect a student's academic success. Each school day is important to ensure students acquire the knowledge and skills they need to be prepared for the next grade level.

For more information on the Waterford School District's Attendance Policy or why school attendance is critical to academic achievement please contact your child's school or the Waterford Success Program at 248-682-1086.

OFFICE HOURS

7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

TEACHER HOURS

7:50 a.m.—3:20 p.m.

Attendance Line: 248.674.1144

Administration: 248-673-1004

Counseling Office: 248.674.3288

Bookstore/Bookkeeper: 248.674.0333

Pierce Food Service: 248.674.7671

CURRICULUM NIGHT

Tuesday, September 11

6:00-8:00 p.m.

We encourage all parents to attend. You will have the opportunity to meet each of your child's teachers and attend shortened classes, beginning with an assembly in the gym with administrators and counselors.

Please note—Because this is a meeting for parents, and we have limited space, please do not bring children with you.

8TH GRADE WASHINGTON, D.C.

PARENT MEETING

Wednesday, September 11

8:00-8:30 p.m.

Pierce Gymnasium

EVERY DAY COUNTS! Don't Let Absences Add Up

Chronic absence is missing too much school for any reason, excused or unexcused. Students who miss more than 10% of the school year (just 18 days) are more likely to drop out of school or not graduate from high school. Attendance is a better predictor of dropout rates than grades or test results.

Absences add up quickly. You can expect to hear from your child's school when your child has missed 5 days of school. We need to work together to promote good attendance for your child every day!



Tuesday, September 25
3:15-5:15 p.m.

\$5.00



**Wristbands will be sold
during 6th hour classes.**

Wristbands are not sold at the door and are not sold in the office. Students must purchase them from their 6th hour teacher.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Be Respectful

- Use appropriate and positive language.
- Listen when others are speaking, and speak when it is your turn.
- Respect others, all staff, and property.

Be Responsible

- Follow all staff directions the first time given.
- Take care of your personal belongings, and clean up after yourself.
- Give your best effort.
- Be prepared.
- Take care of personal needs before class.

Be Safe

- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.

3Bs

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY
Wednesday, September 19

All students must have their picture taken for student ID and school record purposes. Students do not have to purchase a package in order to receive student ID card.

Students will receive picture packet information during 7th hour the second week of school. Students who wish to purchase a picture packet should complete the order form and give it to the photographer, along with payment, at the time their picture is taken.

ID cards will be created and given to students immediately after the picture is taken. Students who lose their ID card may obtain another one from the office for a \$5.00 fee.

6TH GRADE MIXER
Friday, September 14
3:15-5:00 p.m.



Admission wristbands will be sold during 6th hour classes. The cost is \$5.

This is a 6th grade only music-activities-food and fun way to get to know your classmates. You won't want to miss out!

Please note—Wristbands are not sold at the door and are not sold in the office. Students wanting to attend the Mixer must purchase a wristband during their 6th hour class.

The Waterford Coalition for Youth presents

Are We Sure?

Learn the facts about the legalization of marijuana, the language on the ballot, and the potential impact on our community.

Thursday, September 13, 2018
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Waterford Township Hall
5200 Civic Center Drive, Waterford

Featured Presenters:

Craig Summers, Executive Director
Michigan HIDTA

Matthew Yascolt, Grassroots Director
Healthy and Productive Michigan



For questions, please contact the Waterford Coalition for Youth at 248-618-7424.





OLWEUS BULLY PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Waterford School District cares about the safety and well-being of our students. We want to make sure our middle schools are a good place for students to learn. In the Spring 2009, the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program was implemented in the Waterford School District.

The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP) is one of the best-known bullying prevention programs. OBPP has been proved to prevent or reduce bullying. We are able to implement this program as a result of the Safe Schools Healthy Students Initiative.

The goals of OBPP are to reduce bullying problems and prevent new bullying problems from happening. The program also works to make relationships better among students. The program is for all students, not just those who are being bullied or who are bullying others.

Parents and guardians play a key role in this program. Your child will be asked to tell an adult at school and at home if he or she is bullied or sees bullying happening at school. It will be very important that you take any bullying seriously and tell our school staff. Our school staff members have received training to deal with bullying situations when we are told about them.

Classroom meetings will occur on a bi-weekly basis during Language Arts classes. Teachers participate in Staff Discussion Groups on a monthly basis to plan for classroom meetings and discuss matters relating to the program. There is a bullying Prevention Coordinating Committee in each building that oversees the program. Bullying should not be seen as "kids being kids" or something that students just need to deal with. Having a safe school experience is something that all students should be able to enjoy.

A box is located outside the bookstore for students to submit a form providing information (anonymously, if they choose) regarding bullying situations.

If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to contact me or your child's counselor.

Yvonne Dixon
Principal

BUS PASSES



Any student wanting to ride a bus home with a friend must obtain a bus pass from the office. The student must provide a note from his/her parent and a note from the parent of the friend he/she is riding home with. The parent notes must contain the names of both students along with the bus number they will be riding on. Once the office receives both notes, a bus pass will be issued. We are unable to honor verbal requests for bus passes.

Some of our buses may not be able to accommodate additional riders. Those bus numbers will be published as soon as they become available.

Bus passes will not be issued during the month of September.

REMINDER TO PARENTS

For the safety of all of our students, anyone who picks up a student early from school must come in to the office and show picture identification (**and be listed on the emergency card**) before we will call the student out of class. Thank you for your cooperation.

ADDRESS/PHONE CHANGES

Did you move? Did you change your cell or home phone number? If so, please call the school office so your child's emergency card can be updated! It is so important that we are able to reach you during the school day if your child is sick, injured, or if a teacher needs to talk to you.

All address changes must be done at Central Enrollment located at 1150 Scott Lake Road, Waterford.





Waterford School District

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DRESS CODE

As a school, our goal is to offer an environment that is conducive to learning. We are an educational institution, preparing our children for life-long learning and the world of work. With this in mind, we work hard to establish an atmosphere that is respectful to all, encourages work, is safe and does not distract from the learning process. Our dress code policy is aligned with these goals.

The school has a right to ask a student to change his/her dress or personal grooming habits if it is deemed inappropriate or disruptive to the educational environment. Repeat violations of the dress and grooming code shall be considered defiance of authority and may result in disciplinary action as described in the Student Code of Conduct. Administrators will make the final determination as to what constitutes appropriate attire.

PROHIBITED APPAREL

- Pajamas, pajama pants, loungewear, or other sleepwear.
- Beachwear
- "Bag and sag" pants/sweats/shorts (oversized pockets, oversized crotch, oversized legs) that must be held up to walk.
- Biker and spandex shorts.
- Low cut tops
- Muscle shirts, tank tops, razor back shirts, thin shoulder strap tops, backless, strapless, cut-out or halter-tops, sheer or see through blouses unless a blouse/top is worn over at all times.
- Any article of clothing that displays alcohol or drug slogans/symbols or other suggestive or inappropriate designs, including but not limited to those that promote (suggest) sex or violence. This refers specifically to advertising said products as well as any form of narcotic paraphernalia. Clothing and buttons with writing and/or graphics with objectionable themes or implied obscenities are also strictly prohibited. This would include articles of clothing with any writing placed on the seat of the pant.
- Wristbands (athletic type)
- Headgear of any kind, including hats, caps, scarves, do-rags, stocking caps, bandana hats, visors, and baseball caps (unless permitted for a school spirit day).
- Spiked jewelry or belts
- Slippers or shower shoes
- Any clothing, jewelry, symbol or other object that may reasonably be perceived by a staff member as evidence of membership in or affiliation with a gang.
- Outer clothing such as sunglasses, gloves, jackets, and overcoats designed strictly for outdoor wear are not to be worn in the school building or carried to and from classes. They must be stored in the student's locker. If classrooms are cool, students should bring sweaters to wear at school.
- Any clothing articles that the administrative staff deems inappropriate for a learning environment will not be permitted.

REQUIREMENTS

- All clothing must fit and be worn appropriately (no underclothing may show).
- Shirts must go below the top of the pants at the waist.
- Tops with thin shoulder straps must have straps the width of three fingers without having to combine other thin-strapped tops with it.
- All tops must be no more than 3" below the collarbone.
- Pants/shorts/skirts must be worn at the waist.
- Pants with holes in them higher than the knee must be worn with leggings underneath. No flesh may show above mid-thigh (finger-tip) length.
- Shorts/skirts must fall midway between the knee and thigh when seated. The general rule is they must be fingertip length.
- Shoes/boots or other appropriate footwear must be worn.
- Students wearing leggings, jeggings, yoga , or any other thin, tight-fitting pants must wear a top that reaches mid-thigh (or finger-tip length).

Students violating the dress code shall be subject to correction and disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by administration.

ORDER YEARBOOKS ONLINE!

Yearbooks on Sale ~ Order Online

- August 1st—September 30th—\$30
- October 1st—January 31st—\$35

Step 1—Go to the following website

- www.yearbookordercenter.com—there are two options for choosing the school
 - Order number is 3607. Type “3607” in the text field provided
 - Or choose “United States-Michigan-Waterford-Pierce Middle School

Step 2—Student name

- Type the student’s FIRST name and LAST name in the respective fields. Click on “SEARCH”
- Click on the circle next to your child’s name. Then click “SHOP FOR SELECTED STUDENT OR BUSINESS”
- If you can’t find your student’s name, you will have the option to add a new student

Step 3—Verify student homeroom

- Student’s homeroom/6th hour class should automatically be listed in the field.
- If the information is correct, click on ‘CONTINUE WITHOUT UPDATING
- If the information is incorrect, please change and click on “UPDATE STUDENT INFORMATION”

Step 4—Order Yearbook

- Yearbook only—\$30
- Click “ORDER”

Step 5—Verify order

- If the order and quantity are correct, click “ADD TO CART”
- Final verification—three options
 - “CHECKOUT” if everything is correct
 - “SHOP FOR A DIFFERENT STUDENT”
 - “CONTINUE SHOPPING FOR CURRENT STUDENT”

Step 6—Check out

- Fill in all fields required for billing purposes and payment options
- Upon completion click “CHECKOUT”

Step 7—Verification of payment

- Verify payment information
- An option to print a receipt will be provided upon final verification

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS!

The Yearbook can't be everywhere. Sometimes we miss a great shot. We would love to see your photos. There are two ways to share:

Website

1. <http://www.hjeshare.com/eShare/Index.jsp>
2. Enter school code—3042262
3. Fill out name, email and phone number
4. Hit browse for images
5. Select photos to upload
6. Enter identifying information about the photo you are uploading: names, grades, description
7. Click upload when you are done



App for Smart Phone

1. Click on the App store button on your phone
2. Look for the “hj eShare” app and install it—you can search under “herff jones” or “eShare”
3. To start uploading photos with eShare
4. If it is your first time uploading a photo, touch the “+” to add your school—enter school code 3042262
5. Touch your school name and read the terms
6. Touch Accept (top right)
7. Touch Select Image
8. Choose Select Existing Photo
9. Scroll to the photo you want to upload
10. Touch to select
11. Enter identifying information about the photo you are uploading—names, grades, description
12. Click Upload when you are done, then click Done after the photo has finished uploading



Pierce

SCHOOL CALENDAR

September 4	Students report
October 26	Half day for students, dismissal at 11:00
November 6	No school for students, Professional Development Day
November 21-23	Thanksgiving Break
December 21	Half day for students, dismissal at 11:00
Dec 24-Jan 4.....	Winter Break
January 21	Martin Luther King Jr Day
January 24-25.....	Half day for students, Exam days, Dismissal at 11:00
February 15	Half day for students, dismissal at 11:00
February 18-19.....	February Break
March 14.....	Half day for students, dismissal at 11:00, Professional Development Day
April 1-5.....	Spring Break
April 19	Good Friday, No school for students
May 24.....	Half day for students, dismissal at 11:00
May 27.....	Memorial Day
June 13-14	Half day for students, Exam days, Dismissal at 11:00
June 14.....	Last day of school for students

MARKING PERIOD DATES

Marking Period 1—September 4-November 9

Marking Period 2—November 11-January 25

Marking Period 3—January 28-April 12

Marking Period 4—April 15-June 14

Report cards may be viewed on MiStar Parent Portal and MiStar Student Portal approximately one week after the end of each marking period.

6TH GRADE CAMP

November 1 & November 2
Half of 6th graders attend each day

October 5

Payment due (\$65.00)

8TH GRADE WASHINGTON, D.C. TRIP

May 20-23, 2018

Aug 21-Oct 26.....	Raffle fundraiser
September 11.....	Parent Meeting, 8:00-8:30
November 20.....	Raffle drawing, 2:30
March 19	Roommate selections during 8th hr
April 9	Parent Meeting, 6:00
May 17	Bus meetings during 8th hour

IMPORTANT DATES

September 4	Volleyball tryouts, 7-3:30, 8-5:00
September 5	Volleyball tryouts, 7-3:30, 8-5:00
September 7	Volleyball tryouts, 7-3:30, 8-5:00
	Cross Country starts, 3:15
	Fiddle Club auditions, 3:20-4:15
September 11	Cross Country Parent Meeting, 5:00
	Curriculum Night, 6:00-8:00
	D.C. Parent Meeting, 8:00-8:30
September 12	Cross Country vs Mason at Hess Hathaway, 4:00
September 13	Volleyball at Millennium, 4:00
September 14	6th grade Mixer, 3:15-5:00
	Fiddle Club, 3:15-4:15
	Select Ensemble Auditions, 3:15-4:15
September 17-21	Book Fair in Library
September 17	Volleyball at home vs Mason, 4:00
September 18	Select Ensemble Auditions, 3:15-4:15
	Student Council, 3:20-4:00
	Football at home vs Oakview, 4:00
	PTO Meeting, 7:00-8:00, West Cafeteria
September 19	Cross Country vs Muir & Centennial at Centennial, 4:00
September 20	Volleyball at Oak Valley, 4:00
September 21	Fiddle Club, 3:15-4:15
	Select Ensemble Practice, 3:15-4:15
	Pacing for Pierce at Hess Hathaway, 4:00
September 24	7/8 Percussion Practice, 3:15-4:15
	Volleyball at home vs Muir, 4:00
	SHARE Parent Meeting, 6:30, Crary
September 25	Welcome Back Dance, 3:15-5:15
	Football at Clarkston Jr High vs Gold, 4:00
September 26	Cross Country at home vs Muir, 4:00
September 28	Fiddle Club, 3:15-4:15
October 1	Volleyball at home vs Walnut Creek, 4:00
October 2	Student Council, 3:20-4:00, West Café
	Football at Scripps, 4:00
October 3	Student Membership Count Day
	Cross Country at Oak Valley, 4:00
	Volleyball at Smart, 4:00

All events/dates/locations/times subject to change.

ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

Athletic announcements will be made to student during our daily announcements. Athletic information will also be posted on the Pierce Athletic Facebook page at www.facebook.com/piercepiratesathletics and/or on our website at www.waterford.k12.mi.us/pierce. Practice schedules and changes to game schedules may be obtained through the coaches or the building athletic manager. The schedules below are tentative.

CROSS COUNTRY

Wednesday	9/12/18	Mason Middle School at Hess Hathaway	Home	4:00
Wednesday	9/19/18	Vs Muir and Centennial Middle School in South Lyon	Away	4:00
Wednesday	9/26/18	Muir Middle School at Hess Hathaway	Home	4:00
Wednesday	10/3/18	Oak Valley Middle School	Away	4:00
Wednesday	10/10/18	Walnut Creek Middle School at Hess Hathaway	Home	4:00
Monday	10/15/18	White Lake Middle School	Away	4:00
Friday	10/19/18	LVC Invite at Hess Hathaway	Home	TBA

VOLLEYBALL

Thursday	9/13/18	Millennium Middle School	Away	4:00
Monday	9/17/18	Mason Middle School	Home	4:00
Thursday	9/20/18	Oak Valley Middle School	Away	4:00
Monday	9/24/18	Muir Middle School	Home	4:00
Monday	10/1/18	Walnut Creek Middle School	Home	4:00
Wednesday	10/3/18	Smart Middle School	Home	4:00
Thursday	10/4/18	Mason Middle School at Mott High School (7th & 8th grade both play at 4:00)	Away	4:00
Monday	10/8/18	Centennial Middle School	Home	4:00
Wednesday	10/10/18	White Lake Middle School	Away	4:00
Saturday	10/13/18	LVC Tournament –location TBA	Away	TBA

FOOTBALL

Tuesday	9/18/18	Oakview Middle School	Home	4:00
Tuesday	9/25/18	Clarkston Junior High School (Gold)	Away	4:00
Tuesday	10/2/18	Scripps Middle School	Away	4:00
Tuesday	10/9/18	Avondale Middle School—7th grade	Home	4:00
		Pontiac Middle School—8th grade	Home	5:30
Tuesday	10/16/18	Waldon Middle School	Away	4:00
Wednesday	10/24/18	Oxford Middle School (Blue)	Home	4:00
Tuesday	10/30/18	Mason Middle School at Kettering	Home	4:00

All events/dates/locations/times subject to change.

BREAK THE CULTURE OF SILENCE! OK2SAY

OK2SAY is a student safety initiative that allows students to confidentially report tips on potential harmful or criminal activities directed at students, school employees, and students, parents, school personnel, community mental health service programs, and law enforcement to share and respond to student safety threats.

Break the Culture of Silence

In 81% of violent school incidents, someone other than the attacker had knowledge of the attacker's plan but failed to report it. OK2SAY gives students, who might otherwise remain silent out of fear of rejection or retaliation, an avenue to seek help and break the culture of silence.

How to Submit a Tip

Tips can be submitted 24/7 by phone, text, email, mobile app, or via the OK2SAY website. Multimedia attachments and links to additional information are accepted. Tips can be submitted on bullying, suicide talk, weapons at school, threats, and anything that threatens student safety.

Call: 1.8.555.OK2SAY or 1.855.565.2729

Text: 652729 (OK2SAY)

Email: ok2say@mi.gov

Web: www.mi.gov/ok2say

Mobile App: Available in the app stores for iPhone and Android.

OK2SAY is operated through a partnership between the Department of Attorney General, the Michigan State Police, state agencies, schools, parents, law enforcement and community leaders.

For additional information, visit www.mi.gov/ok2say.



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

BLACKBOARD CONNECT MISTAR Parent Portal—Student Portal

BLACKBOARD CONNECT MISTAR Parent Portal—Student Portal

There are three components of our district communication system:

Blackboard Connect, MISTAR Parent Portal and MISTAR Student Portal

Blackboard Connect is a notification system that allows you to be informed of school closings, emergency situations, district and school news, etc. MISTAR Parent Portal is a Parent Portal where parents can go to get information about schedules, attendance, grades, and more. When logging into the portal for the first time, verify and/or edit your contact information in the system by clicking the account link at the top. Add your email if it does not appear in the contact information. Emergency contact changes will be handled through the main office. Each parent or legal guardian will have their own unique access to the portal, unless legal bindings prohibit such access. Please bring documentation to the school office if this is the case.

Report cards will be available electronically in the Parent Portal for all grade levels. If you require a printed report card, you will have the ability to print the report card from the Parent Portal.

The web address for the Parent Connect page is:

<https://mistar.oakland.k12.mi.us/waterford/parentportal>

The web address for the Blackboard Connect page is:

<https://020812081.bbcportal.com>

The web address for the Student Connect page is:

<https://mistar.oakland.k12.mi.us/waterford/studentportal>

Links to these sites can also be found on the district webpage at:

www.waterford.k12.mi.us

URGENT SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

In the event that the District must close school(s) for inclement weather or other emergency situations, information regarding the closing will be available via:

Comcast Channel 22 WSDTV

[Channel 4 WDIV](#)

[760 AM WJR](#)

[95.5 FM WKQI](#)

[Channel 2 WJBK](#)

[Channel 7 WXYZ](#)

[950 AM WWJ](#)

Urgent information will also be available on the [district webpage](#) and via emails sent directly to your inbox for registered Blackboard Connect users.



Facebook.com/waterfordpiercemiddleschool
Facebook.com/piercepiratesathletics

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Annette Noble-Familoe, Counselor
Stacey Taplin, Counselor
Jeff Tunnicliff, Counselor
Sandra Clarke, Social Worker
Erin Clark, Psychologist
Julie Rule, Teacher Consultant

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Carly Stone

Director, Instructional Services & Technology

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No person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, disability, height and weight, or marital status shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program, activity, or event.