



NEWSLETTER

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Vol. 48, No. 5

5145 Hatchery Road, Waterford, MI 48329

December 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

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Choir Concert
Wednesday, December 5
7:00 p.m. at Mott PAC

Orchestra Concert
7th & 8th grades
Tuesday, December 11
7:00 p.m. at Kettering PAC

Band Concert
Wednesday, December 12
7:00 p.m. at Kettering PAC

AND THE WINNER IS . . .

The Washington, D.C. raffle drawing was held on Tuesday, November 20th. Winners of the raffle are:

1st Place—\$500.00

Ticket # 27159

Velda Bueno

2nd Place—\$300.00

Ticket # 00602

David Wood

3rd Place—\$100.00 (2)

Ticket # 21657

Carly Ransom

and

Ticket # 00574

Whitney Findlay

Congratulations! Thank you to everyone who supported our Washington, D.C. raffle!

ATTENTION 8TH GRADERS

Don't forget to register for the Washington, D.C. trip! Selling raffle tickets did not automatically register you for the trip. There are three ways you may register:

- By mail (pick up a packet in the office or from Mr. Martin in room 305)
- By phone—1-800-468-5899
- Online—www.worldstrides.com

Whichever way you choose to register, please use trip ID number 164366 when registering.

There is a \$99 deposit (non-refundable). The total cost for the 2019 trip is \$789.

ATHLETICS

Wrestling and Girls' Basketball start in January. Students who want to join the wrestling team or tryout for the Girls' Basketball teams must have a valid sports physical in order to participate. The sports physical must be on the official MHSAA form and the examination must have been given on or after April 15, 2018 to be valid for the 2018-2019 school year.



**Kettering
Collage
Concert
Dec 6 - 8**

**Mott
Holiday
Showcase
Dec 19-20**

**DEC.
KETTERING PAC
MOTT PAC**



Holiday Dance

Tuesday, December 18
2:30-4:00 p.m.
\$5.00

Students may purchase admission wristbands during 6th hour class starting December 14th.

If you would like to help out at this dance, please contact Sandy Clarke at clarks01@wsdmi.org, Rebecca Sternberg at sternr01@wsdmi.org, or Sarah Vaughn at vaughs01@wsdmi.org.



REMINDERS

Caller ID Calls

We receive many calls throughout the day with the caller saying "someone just called me from this number—it could be....". Please understand that if the caller didn't leave a message, the office has no way to determine who called you, or why. It could be any of your child's teachers, social workers, psychologists, speech therapists, counselors, or other various staff members. Or, it could be your child. All of our phones access the same lines and when you call the number back it rings into the main office. Please remind your kids to always leave a message if you don't answer. Oftentimes, kids call from a classroom phone and office staff are not aware that they tried to contact you and do not know why they were trying to contact you.

Student Messages

Lately we've been receiving a large volume of callers who want to leave messages and/or speak with their kids during class. Every time we interrupt a class to give a child a message, it interrupts the learning process for all of the students in the class. Please try to communicate, and make all arrangements, with your child prior to his/her arrival at school.

Texting Kids

Student cell phones are to be turned off (not on vibrate) and out of sight during school hours. Student cell phones that are seen or heard by a staff member may be confiscated and held in the office until a parent picks it up. Parents, please do not text your kids during school hours. If you need to get a message to your child, please call the school.

We've had parents text their kids telling them to go to the office because they are on the way to pick them up. Our policy is that students are to remain in class until their parent is in our office and shows picture identification.

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.

The following buses will not accept bus passes this school year:

Bus #12	Bus #21	Bus #28
Bus #31	Bus #39	Bus #41
Bus #53		

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.

HALF DAY FOR STUDENTS

Friday, December 21
Student dismissal at 11:00 a.m.

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

December 24-January 4
Winter Break
Students return to school
on Monday, January 7



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.

Pierce

SCHOOL CALENDAR

December 21Half day for students, dismissal at 11:00
 Dec 24-Jan 4.....Winter Break
 January 21Martin Luther King Jr Day
 January 24-25.....Half day for students, Exam days, Dismissal at 11:00
 February 15Half 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 19Good Friday, No school for students
 May 24.....Half day for students, dismissal at 11:00
 May 27Memorial Day
 June 13-14Half 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.

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



IMPORTANT DATES

December 3After school tutoring, 3:20-4:00, Library
 7/8 Percussion practice, 3:20-4:00, room 401
 Boys Basketball at Muir, 4:00
 December 4Student Council, 3:20-4:00, West Café
 December 5After school tutoring, 3:20-4:00, Library
 Choir Concert, 7:00, Mott PAC
 December 6Boys Basketball at home vs Sarah Banks, 4:00
 December 7Fiddle Club, 3:20-4:15, room 403
 Select Ensemble, 3:20-4:00, room 405
 December 10After school tutoring, 3:20-4:00, Library
 December 11Orchestra Concert, 7th & 8th grades, 7:00, Kettering PAC
 December 12After school tutoring, 3:20-4:00, Library
 NJHS, 3:20-4:30, LGI
 Boys Basketball vs Mason at Kettering, 4:00
 Band Concert, 7:00, Kettering PAC
 December 13Boys Basketball at home vs Walnut Creek, 4:00
 December 14Popcorn Friday
 Fiddle Club, 3:20-4:15, room 403
 December 17After school tutoring, 3:20-4:00, Library
 Boys Basketball at Smart, 4:00
 December 18Holiday Dance, 2:30-4:00
 December 19After school tutoring, 3:20-4:00, Library
 Boys Basketball at home vs Centennial, 4:00
 January 7-18Pierce Pride Fit Club
 January 7After school tutoring, 3:20-4:00, Library
 January 9After school tutoring, 3:20-4:00, Library
 NJHS, 3:20-4:30, LGI
 6th grade Percussion practice, 3:20-4:00, Room 401
 Boys Basketball at Geisler, 4:00
 January 11.....After school tutoring, 3:20-4:00, Library
 Fiddle Club, 3:20-4:15, room 403
 Select Ensemble, 3:20-4:15, room 405
 January 14.....After school tutoring, 3:20-4:00, Library
 7/8 Percussion practice, 3:20-4:15, room 401
 Girls Basketball Tryouts
 7th grade 3:30-5:30
 8th grade 5:30-7:30
 January 15.....Diversity Journey to WISE Academy in Dearborn Heights
 Student Council, 3:20-4:00, West Café
 Girls Basketball Tryouts
 PTO Meeting, 7:00, Library

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.

Merry Christmas



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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.