



# NEWSLETTER

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5145 Hatchery Road, Waterford, MI 48329

May 2019

## 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**

## WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

Eighth grade students will leave for Washington, D.C. on Monday, May 20. Students should be at the school no later than 3:30 a.m. We will be loading buses at 3:45 a.m. and leaving by 4:00 a.m.

If you have not already turned in your Medical Release/Behavior Contract form to Mr. Martin in room 305, please do so as soon as possible. Also, if needed, please turn in all medication forms as well. Medications should be turned in shortly before the trip and must be in original containers, placed inside a zip lock bag with the student's name written on the outside of the bag.

We will adhere to the D.C. trip Dress Code while on the trip. Please pack suitcase and travel bag accordingly.

Students will return on Thursday, May 23. We are scheduled to return at 11:30 p.m. Students will call parents from the road approximately one hour before arrival.

There is no school on Friday, May 24, for students who attend the D.C. trip.



## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

### BAND CONCERT

All grade levels

Monday, May 13

7:00 p.m.

Kettering Performing Arts Center

### CHOIR CONCERT

All grade levels

Thursday, May 16

7:00 p.m.

Kettering Performing Arts Center

### ORCHESTRA CONCERT

All grade levels

Monday, June 3

7:00 p.m.

Mott Performing Arts Center

## Follett Book Fairs

April 29—May 3

During school hours for  
students to shop

Late Night Shopping  
for Parents

April 30—3:15-5:00

May 2—3:15-7:00

*In the Pierce Library*

## 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**



## **AWARDS CEREMONY**

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

6:00 p.m.—8th grade

7:00 p.m.—6th grade

8:00 p.m.—7th grade

Invitations will be mailed to parents of  
students who will be receiving awards.

SPONSORED BY STAFF OF PIERCE MIDDLE SCHOOL



## 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 #21 Bus #28 Bus #31  
Bus #39 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.

## 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.



## TRACK BANQUET

Monday, June 3

4:00 p.m.

Zap Zone

\$13 per person



# 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.**



Stop the Silence. Help End the Violence.

OK2SAY is the student safety program which allows students to confidentially report tips on potential harm or criminal activities directed at school students, school employees, and schools. Call 8.555.OK2SAY, text 652729 (OK2SAY) or email OK2SAY@mi.gov.

You  
can  
Quit!

We can help!

1-800-QUIT-NOW

1-800-784-8669

## SAFESTOP BUS APP Register today!

The Waterford School District has partnered with SafeStop to launch a new app for parents to keep track of their child's school bus as they make their way along daily routes. With the SafeStop App, parents and students alike will be able to see the exact location of the bus and when it's expected to arrive at their stop. The software updates the expected arrival time every 30 seconds. Parents can also click on a button and see where the bus is physically on a map, eliminating guesswork. These features are available 30 minutes before a scheduled stop.

Parents must use their child's student ID to register for SafeStop. **Parents can find their student's ID in Parent Portal, located under the Demographics Module listed as "Local ID"**. Only one account per student ID can be created, so parents with babysitters or other caregivers will need to share that login information if they want multiple people to have access to the app. However, log in information is kept confidential by SafeStop and not shared with other students and/or parents.

The SafeStop app is available through the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. You can also view the web version of the app at [www.safestopapp.com/web](http://www.safestopapp.com/web). Please review the **How to Get Started** document included in this Update.

## 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](http://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.



# MAY 2019

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1 After School Tutoring, 3:20-4:00, Library NJHS, 3:20-4:30, LGI 6th grade Percussion practice, 3:20-4:00, room 401 Track at Millennium Middle School, 4:00	2 <b>BOOK FAIR</b>	3 Fiddle Club, 3:20-4:15, room 403 Select Ensemble Practice, 3:20-4:15, room 405 Track—Kettering Relays, 4:00
6 Track practice, 3:10-4:30 After School Tutoring, 3:20-4:00, Library 7/8 Percussion Practice, 3:20-4:00, room 401	7 Student Council, 3:20-4:00, West Cafeteria Track practice, 3:10-4:30	8 After School Tutoring, 3:20-4:00, Library 6th grade Percussion Practice, 3:20-4:00, room 401 Track vs Mason at Kettering, 4:00	9 Track—Brighton Relays, 4:00 NJHS Induction, 7:00, Gymnasium	10 Popcorn Friday Track practice, 3:10-4:30 Fiddle Club, 3:20-4:15, room 403 Select Ensemble Practice, 3:20-4:15, room 405
13 Track practice, 3:10-4:30 After School Tutoring, 3:20-4:00, Library Band Concert, 7:00, Kettering PAC	14 Track vs Smart at Kettering, 4:00	15 Track practice, 3:10-4:30 After School Tutoring, 3:20-4:00, Library 6th grade Percussion Practice, 3:20-4:00, room 401	16 Track—WLM Meet, 4:00 Choir Concert, 7:00, Kettering PAC	17 DC Bus meetings during 8th hour Track practice, 3:10-4:30 Select Ensemble Practice, 3:20-4:00, room 405 Combined Orchestra Practice for 8th graders, 3:20-5:00 Color Run, 3:00-3:45 registration, 4:00 event starts
20	21	22	23	24
<b>8th grade Washington, D.C. trip</b>				
Track practice, 3:10-4:30 After School Tutoring, 3:20-4:00, Library 7/8 Percussion Practice, 3:20-4:00, room 401	Track practice, 3:10-4:30 Student Council, 3:20-4:00, West Cafeteria	Track—Lakes Valley Conference, 3:00 After School Tutoring, 3:20-4:00, Library 6th grade Percussion Practice, 3:20-	Track practice, 3:10-4:30 Extra marching practice, 3:20-4:00, room 401	Half day for students—dismissal at 11:00 No school for 8th graders who attended the Washington, D.C. trip
27  No school for students 7th & 8th grade Bands march in Waterford Parade	28 Track practice, 3:10-4:30	29 Track practice, 3:10-4:30 After School Tutoring, 3:20-4:00, Library 7/8 Percussion Practice, 3:20 until all marching equipment is stored	30 Track—Oakland County Meet at Clarkston, 2:00	31 Popcorn Friday Court in School assembly for 8th graders, 8:15-10:00 Yearbooks distributed during 8th hour Goldfish sales during 8th hour in room 305 Fiddle Club, 3:20-5:00, room 403



Remembering on Memorial Day  
Thank you, Veterans!

**Board of Education**

Bob Piggott, President  
John Paul Torres, Vice President  
Heather Halls, Secretary  
Mary Barghahn, Treasurer  
Robert Petrusha, Jr., Trustee  
Joan Sutherland, Trustee  
Julie Josselyn, Trustee

**Pierce Middle School**

Yvonne Dixon, Principal  
Kyle Schultz, Assistant Principal  
Annette Noble-Farmiloe, Counselor  
Stacey Taplin, Counselor  
Jeff Tunnicliff, Counselor  
Sandra Clarke, Social Worker  
Erin Clark, Psychologist  
Julie Rule, Teacher Consultant  
Ed Ketzler, Safety Coordinator

**Superintendent**

Dr. Keith Wunderlich

**Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Services**

Lisa McFee

**Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment**

Carly Stone

**Director, Instructional Services & Technology**

Darin Holley

*Waterford School District web page—[www.waterford.k12.mi.us](http://www.waterford.k12.mi.us)  
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