



Comet Tales

News for Kennedy Parents and Families

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Kindergarten Registration for Fall 2019 opens online at www.fargo.k12.nd.us/registration on February 1, 2019. Child must be age 5 by July 31, 2019 to attend school in the fall.

Registration is a two-step process: online registration and document submission.

STEP ONE: Registration can be completed at home online anytime or at computer kiosks in the office at each Fargo Public elementary school building on the following dates with extended office hours:

- **February 25, 27, and March 1** – 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- **February 26, 28, and March 4** – 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

STEP TWO: *Once online registration has been completed, families MUST bring the following documents to the school their child will attend to finalize their child's registration:*

Child's certified birth certificate

Child's current immunization record

Document (i.e. current city utility bill or bank statement) that includes parent/guardian name and address to verify the correct neighborhood school

If you do not know which school your child will attend, call 701.446.1043 or check online at www.fargo.k12.nd.us/boundarymaps.

January:

- 2 First Day Back to School After Break
- 11 **NO SCHOOL**
- 14 PTA Meeting 6:30pm
- 16 **Wacky Wednesday Beach Day** (Please bring warm clothes for recess)
- 17 Grade 5 History of Jazz at MSUM
- 18 Grade 1 Operation Big Bandaid for Bandy, Hudson and Uggerud
- 21 **NO SCHOOL**
- 29 Grade 3 Plains Art Museum - Unser/Tiedman
- 30 Grade 5 Music Experience at Discovery
- 31 Grade 3 Plains Art Museum - Emery/Brown

**PARKING
LOT**



SAFETY

Thank you to all the drivers who follow the directions on the signs and take extra precautions when picking up or dropping off students.

Please remain in your vehicle in the morning and pull all the way up to the second cross-walk to keep the flow of traffic moving. With the wind chill so low in the coming months, it is not safe for staff to stand outside to direct traffic for long periods of time. Thank you for your assistance!



Fargo Public Schools Accepting Nominations Beginning January 7 for Teacher, Administrator, and Support Staff of the Year Awards. Parents and community members are invited to nominate a Fargo Public Schools teacher, administrator, or support staff member they feel is serving our students with excellence for consideration of a yearly recognition award.

Online instructions, forms, and application process can be found at:

www.fargo.k12.nd.us/staffrecognitionprogram

The District will award the following this Spring:

- Teacher of the Year Award – awarded to a certified staff member
- Administrator of the Year Award – awarded to a principal, assistant principal, director or coordinator
- Support Staff of the Year Award – awarded to an educational support staff member, custodial/maintenance department staff member, or nutrition services staff member

Nominations for each award may be sent January 7 - 18.



Introducing our newest office staff member!

Susan Heiden

Susan moved to West Fargo from Grand Forks where she was the Administrative Assistant at Schroeder Middle School. She is married with three children; two sons in Fargo and a daughter in Plymouth, MN.

She is excited to be a part of the Kennedy family and can't wait to meet you and your awesome kiddos.

Report to PARENTS

Make Every Day Count: Boost School Attendance

To stay on track in school, students need to be present every day. Missing 18 or more days of school in a year puts a child's high school graduation at risk, according to AbsencesAddUp.org, a national chronic absenteeism prevention campaign. Being absent for just two days every month of the school year can put a child behind academically.

Students with regular attendance are more likely to read well by third grade and score higher on tests. They also tend to be more engaged in school and feel better about themselves.

Put your child on the path to success with these attendance strategies.

Make school a priority. Every absence (excused or not), can impact a child's academic achievement. Talk to your child about how important their education is. Make daily routines for homework and waking up on time for school.

Maintain communication with teachers and keep an eye on your child's academic progress. If your child seems disconnected from school or is prone to skipping class, try signing him or her up for an after-school activity. A report by the University of Minnesota found that students in an after-school program attended 18 more days of school and missed nine fewer than their peers.

Make a plan. If your schedule or transportation situation makes getting your child to school a challenge, ask for assistance. Make a carpool or transportation plan with other parents or family members, or ask your school principal for community programs or school initiatives that may help.

Report in. Know your school's attendance policies. If an absence or early dismissal is unavoidable, contact your school. If your family's religious observances fall on school days, let teachers know early in the year which days your child will miss.

Carefully weigh sick days. If your child is sick, talk with your health care provider to determine whether they should stay home from school. If the doctor or nurse recommends that your child stay home, find out exactly how long and on what conditions he or she can return to class (for example, after 24 hours of antibiotics).

Before keeping your children home, make sure they aren't faking symptoms. Regularly feigning sickness may be a sign that your child is anxious about facing a challenge at school, such as bullying.



Schedule wisely. Know your school's calendar, and arrange doctor and dentist appointments after school, on weekends, or during holiday breaks, if possible. Resist the urge to schedule vacations when students will miss school. This gives students the impression that school is not a priority.

Help students complete assignments. When your child has to miss school, make arrangements with teachers

to pick up a packet of make-up work. Ensure that your child follows through, and be available to explain concepts or monitor their work. If your child's absence will be lengthy (for surgery, for instance), alert teachers as soon as you know and pick up assignments as the days go on.

Web Resources

Absences Add Up offers a list of reasons why kids might miss school, and offers solutions for parents looking to keep their kids learning.
www.absencesaddup.com/reasons-why-kids-miss-school

This infographic, **How Sick is Too Sick fo School?**, can help families decide which symptoms should keep students at home.
<http://bit.ly/2cuqbgvG>

Attendance Works offers research, webinars, and handouts designed with elementary and middle-level parents in mind.
<http://www.attendanceworks.org/tools/>