

Summit Fall Newsletter

Welcome Back!

Chris Billings, Principal
Jerry Stratton, Associate Principal
Ben Chadwick, Student Support Facilitator

Summit welcomes the following staff for the 19-20 School Year:

Jeremy Gloston — Associate Teacher
Jessie Johnson — 6th Grade Teacher
Jody Kimberley — Reading Interventionist
Kevin Lauridsen — 7th Grade Teacher
Kevin Potthoff — Health
Brandy Schoelerman — Administrative Assistant to the Principal
Karen Scott — PE Teacher
Gabe Schultz — PE Teacher
Jerry Stratton — Associate Principal



A Message From Your Principal

Dear Summit Middle School Parents:

It is hard to believe that I am beginning my third year as principal of Summit Middle School. As many of you already know, Summit is a great place to go to school. Our staff is committed to the success of each student.

Our goals for this school year are as follows:

- improve math and reading achievement through the use of best instructional practice
- improve the social-emotional experience for each student through positive relationship building

Our focus on these goals should directly impact your student's experience at Summit this year.

I am anxious to get to know you—especially our students and parents who are new to the building. Please take time to introduce yourself at open house or other community events.

Thank you for sending your students to Summit. It is going to be a great school year.



MANDATORY VACCINATIONS FOR 7TH AND 12TH GRADES

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Bureau of Immunization, has completed the administrative rules process to require meningococcal vaccine for students enrolling in 7th and 12th grades. The new requirement for enrollment in Iowa schools is a one-time dose of meningococcal vaccine for ALL incoming 7th and 12th grade students. Students in these grades will not be allowed to attend school until they have the vaccine and completed immunization form (provided by the doctor).

PARENT PICK-UP AND BUS LANES

Bus arrival and pick up is located on the south and east sides of the building. Parent drop off and pick up is located at the main entrance at the front (north) side of the building. Cars should enter at the far west driveway entrance, and will exit at the far east driveway exit. **For the safety of your child, please use the designated parent drop off/pick up area, and do not have students cross the line of cars by dropping them off in the parking lot spaces.** If you need to walk students in to school, please park in a spot and accompany your student to the building. Students should not be dropped off before 7:20 a.m. Students should be picked up immediately after school unless arrangements have been made with a teacher, they are participating in extracurricular activities, or they are part of a community education activity. If parents/guardians are picking up their children, they should be picked up on the north side of the building by 3:00 p.m. In the event the building closes early for inclement weather, all students will be dismissed and there will be no after school activities.

BREAKFAST RULES

- Serving time for breakfast is 7:25-7:40.
- We encourage students to eat breakfast.
- If they arrive late due to weather, grab and go options are available.
- All students should be in class by 7:45 unless they have teacher permission.
- All trash and waste should be disposed of properly.
- Students who have a negative account balance cannot purchase breakfast items or ala carte items unless purchased with cash.



SCHOOL DAY SCHEDULE

Classes begin—7:45 a.m.

School Dismissed—2:50 p.m.

Every Wednesday school is dismissed at 1:50 p.m. *

**Six Wednesdays throughout the year will not have early dismissal—see district calendar*

ARRIVAL IN THE MORNING

Students who walk, ride bicycles or are transported by parents should arrive at school no earlier than 7:20 a.m. Students will wait in the cafeteria until 7:35 a.m. Students should report to their first period class and be ready to begin at 7:45 a.m.

VISITOR POLICY/SECURE BUILDING INFORMATION

In order to provide a safe environment, all exterior doors to our building are always locked, and the main entrance doors will lock at 8:00 a.m. every day after students have entered the building. The doors will remain locked all day until dismissal time. The purpose of a secure building is to route all traffic into one door to keep track of anyone entering the building. All visitors to Summit must push the buzzer/doorbell at the main entrance doors for office staff to permit entrance to the building. Visitors must check in with the office and have a **driver's license ID ready to scan**. All visitors will receive a scanned photo ID badge to wear during their visit in the building. Parents who will supervise or work directly with students will need to complete a background check.

IMPORTANT ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

If it is necessary to be absent or tardy from school, parents should call the school office. The school will require the following:

- Call Summit Attendance at 986-0941 to notify the attendance secretary each day your child is absent or tardy. Mrs. Soda is our Attendance Secretary.
- For your convenience, we have a 24-hour answering machine that will take your absence information on the attendance line.
- When recording a message, please leave the following information: Your name, your child's name, days student will be absent, and the reason for the absence or tardiness.
- If your son/daughter is reported absent or tardy, and the school has not received prior information or a phone call, an attempt will be made to contact a parent/guardian to verify the reason for the absence.
- If we cannot verify the absence, the student will be marked "unexcused."
- If contact is still unsuccessful by the following day, a school counselor or administrator may contact the student and/or parent in accordance with the district attendance policy. Any consequences will be handled through Summit administration per our district policy.

SMS IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

OFFICE: 515-986-0318

Fax: 515-986-0952

Attendance: 515-986-0941

Summit School Counselors:

Mrs. Brock (6th grade) 515-986-0318, x6234

Mrs. Heston (7th grade) 515-986-0318, x6236

Pool: 515-986-0951

Nurse: 515-986-0931

COMMUNITY ED/SPORTS: 515-278-0552

Nutrition: 515-986-0938



TARDIES

As part of our behavior goal for this year, Summit is focusing on arriving on time to school. In case of a late bus, students should check in at the office before going to class and communicate to the office that they were on a late bus. If he or she is tardy (tardy bell rings at 7:45 a.m.) and comes to school other than by bus, he or she should have a written excuse from parents and should check in at the office or it will be recorded as an unexcused tardy. Unexcused tardiness to classes during the school day may result in disciplinary action.

LEAVING SCHOOL FOR APPOINTMENTS

If you are checking a student out for appointments during school hours, please send a signed note with your student to school. The note should be brought to the office upon his or her arrival at school first thing in the morning. The office will prepare a permit that will excuse the student to leave class at the appointment time. This procedure helps us avoid classroom disruptions if we do not have to call into the classrooms to pull students from class. Please come to the office to pick up and sign out your student.

HEALTH SERVICES

The Health Services program is designed to help each student protect, improve, and maintain physical, emotional and social well being. The office is staffed daily by a registered nurse. The nurse is available for accidents, acute illnesses or emergencies. Students need to go to the nurse if they are ill. The nurse, Julie Dalbey, will contact the parent. For safety, students are not to contact parents from their cell phones.

- Summit Nurse Phone Number: 986-0931
- Summit Nurse Office Hours: 7:30—3:30
- Located in the main office

NEED TO MAKE A CHANGE?.....IT'S EASY!!!

It's important to keep your student's information up to date at all times. Changes such as your personal contact information can now be made via the Infinite Campus portal using the household information tab. If you have not yet logged in to Infinite Campus, please use the following link to set up or access your account.

<https://campus.johnston.k12.ia.us/campus/portal/johnston.jsp>

If you have questions, please call the Summit office at 986-0318 or email Janene Goodenow jgoodenow@johnston.k12.ia.us.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Providing safe, reliable transportation to and from school is a critical part of the school day. The Johnston Community School District is pleased to partner with [Student Transportation of America](#) (STA) to offer bus ridership to students in the district's boundaries. **All transportation-related questions can be directed to the STA office, 515-278-8149, or emailed to Katie McBride at kamcbride@ridesta.com. The office is located at 6350 NW Beaver Dr. in Johnston.**



SafeStop Mobile App

SafeStop is the mobile app that connects parents to the vehicles transporting their children. This free easy-to-use mobile app features neighborhood maps and a MapView bus locator. Using GPS technology, the app updates every 30 seconds to help you better plan for your busy day. Visit our district website and click on the Transportation tab to view information on downloading the SafeStop App.

Walk Zones

The Johnston Community School District uses a 1-mile walk zone for students at Summit. When considering the walk zones, there were a number of factors examined, including: safety hazards such as busy roads and non-signal/light cross areas; the availability of sidewalks; and age of students walking these routes. Because each school's site is unique, the results for walking and busing zones vary. Parents can check transportation eligibility and their distance to the school via the [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#).

Eligibility

Families will also see one of five transportation eligibility options when they log into the Infinite Campus parent portal, under the "JCSD Transportation" tab. The driving distance from the street in front of a child's primary address to the bus lane of a child's assigned school is listed, as measured by the VersaTrans routing software. As a reminder, there is a 1-mile walk zone for students grades K-9 (each school has a unique map) and a 2-mile walk zone for JHS students.

2019-20 Bus Rider Registration

If you will be riding the bus in the 2019-20 school year, please fill out the following form. Questions can be directed to the Johnston STA office at 515-278-8149. [2019-20 Transportation Information Form](#)

Paid Ridership

The Johnston Community School District offers an optional pay-to-ride student transportation program for K-12 students who are not eligible riders based on their distance to/from their school. Paid ridership is based on a space-available, or open-seats only, basis. This means that if there are seats available on a bus route, transportation will be provided for a fee. The decision for offering any available seats will be done so using a distance rubric for families (i.e. furthest from school receive first consideration).

No Guest Riders

Students who are eligible for bus transportation **will not** be allowed to bring a guest rider (s) on the bus with them. This is a change from previous years and made effective by the Johnston Board of Education in August 2016. The elimination of the guest rider option keeps route sizes consistent on a day-to-day basis and ensures all eligible riders receive the transportation they are entitled to.

Bus Safety

Safety at bus stops and on the school bus depends on the cooperation and responsible behavior of every student. Parents are encouraged to review guidelines for getting on and off the bus safely with their children – as well as report any unsafe incidents they witness.



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!!!

Summit Fall Picture Day

August 28th

Parent Teacher Fall Conferences

November 14th:

- 1:30pm-5:00pm
- 5:30pm-8:00pm

November 19th

- 4:30pm-8:00pm

You will receive information at a later date for scheduling conferences.

Keeping you informed is a top priority in the Johnston Community School District. Accordingly, we utilize the Blackboard Connect Notification Service to send telephone or e-mail messages to you regarding weather closings, emergencies or important school events.

Our goal is that in the event of an emergency at school, you will be informed immediately by phone and/or e-mail. For more information or if you have a question, please call Laura Sprague @ 515-278-0470.

During the school year, non-emergency or weather related Summit communications will be sent via Blackboard Connect in the form of an email.



Check out our school webpage for daily announcements and school information!

